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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk October 25, 2015

Mid edition No 683

LAW & ORDER

Halloween's crime spike

Trick or treat? Special report reveals
how police see trouble increase

ENVIRONMENT

Perils of failing to deliver a local plan

Authorities warned Whitehall
will make decisions instead

ENTERTAINMENT

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Why we need to lose our desire for a sweet tooth

FOR someone so obsessed with food, it is perhaps fitting that Jamie Oliver is a somewhat Marmite personality.

Yet while, as a society, our natural reaction of a celebrity telling us we should change our eating habits is to tell them where to stick their health advice, Mr Oliver is proving to have an extremely wise head on his relatively young shoulders.

Once you wade through the 'pukka this' and 'pukka that' of his on-screen persona, it is hard to argue that his desire to make us eat more healthily is a message we simply cannot ignore.

His campaign to improve school meals for children was a triumph and only ignored by the sort of pigheadedness that comes from the dimwitted.

This week he has, once again, stuck his neck out in support of a tax of sugary foods. Failure to heed it - and the hard

facts presented by Public Health England - will surely mean we take another giant stride towards becoming more like the obesity crisis experienced in America which we are often so keen to mock.

David Cameron may well live to regret dismissing out of hand such a call.

No-one likes being told what to do, but for those parents who fail to acknowledge the long term harm to the health of their children by allowing them a calorific diet, it is a message they must grasp. After all,

we're not talking about banning foods here, simply taking steps to ease the demand.

If, somehow, we can lose our desperate desire for a sweet tooth then we also lose the colossal strain we put on the health service which spends billions on controlling and treating the complications of illnesses such as diabetes.

Killing two birds with one stone.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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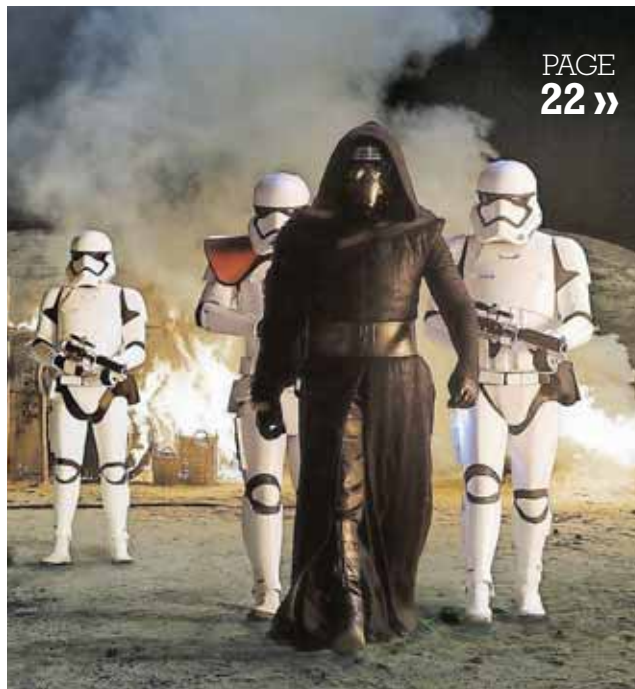
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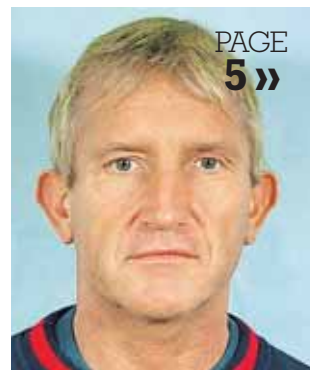
Return of the space saga sees fans across county grab their seat in advance



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Family relief as open jail move for Noye rejected

By James Edgar

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE family of M25 road rage victim Stephen Cameron say a "huge weight has been lifted from our shoulders" after justice secretary Michael Gove intervened to block a move to an open prison for his killer Kenneth Noye.

The parole board had made a recommendation following a hearing in September that Noye, now 68, should be moved to an open prison. A move seen as a precursor to release.

But on Thursday night it was confirmed that was rejected by the Ministry of Justice – and Michael Gove – over fears for public safety.

Noye, who was born in Bexleyheath and lived in West Kingsdown, is serving a life sentence for stabbing to death electrician Stephen Cameron, 21, from Dartford, in a road rage attack on the Swanley slip road of the M25 in 1996.

Mr Cameron's father Ken told the Sun: "A huge weight has been lifted from our shoulders. We want to thank Mr Gove. We have got justice again for our son.



JAILED: Kenneth Noye will remain in a top security prison after Michael Gove rejected recommendations

"He's never shown any remorse for murdering Stephen. We were first told in November that Noye had applied for parole. Hearings kept getting pushed back, then we were told he was due to be moved. The strain has been immense. But now they've told him he is staying put."

Noye had fled the country after the murder and was eventually tracked down to Spain two years later where he was arrested. He was jailed in 2000 with a mini-

mum 16 year term.

Such an intervention by the secretary of state is rare, with fewer than one per cent of parole board recommendations being turned down over the last five years.

A source said around 40 recommendations out of 6,000 from 2010 to this year had been rejected by the justice secretary.

A Prison Service spokesman said: "We do not comment on individuals. "Public protection is our top

priority and transfers to open conditions can only be made when we are certain that public safety will not be compromised."

Two years before killing Mr Cameron, Noye had been released from prison for handling bullion stolen in the Brink's-Mat robbery.

He stabbed to death police officer John Fordham in January 1985 in the grounds of his Kent home, but was acquitted at trial after claiming he was acting in self-defence.

KCC backs TfL in bid to prise Southeastern off Metro train services

KENT County Council has pinned its colours to the Transport for London (TfL) mast - calling for it to assume control of key rail services in and around London, currently controlled by Southeastern.

The firm, which runs the majority of rail services across Kent, will see its franchise up for renewal in 2018. And this week KCC made it apparent it would be supporting TfL's bid to prise Metro services – which would include services to Dartford and Sevenoaks – out of Southeastern's grasp. It has held talks with TfL to seek assurances any such move – which would see the service handed to the successful bidding franchise – would see no price hikes or reduction in services for those in the county.

Matthew Balfour, KCC cabinet member for environment and transport, said: "We welcome the proposal for the transfer of the Southeastern Metro services, based on our firm position that there must be no detrimental impact on the

county's rail users. We are pleased TfL accepted our non-negotiable 'red lines' as a starting point for discussions, and as a result, rail commuters are set to reap a series of benefits."

KCC is now investigating other possible benefits from the proposals, such as faster journeys by omitting some stops such as St Mary Cray on Maidstone East services, as this station would be served by the four-trains per hour Thameslink service planned from 2018.

However, the proposal has plenty of hurdles to leap before Southeastern lose out. A spokesman for the train company was keeping tight-lipped over the proposals, telling KoS: "Any matter on who would operate the franchise is something for government to rule on and a decision for the Department for Transport. We cannot comment further."

Meanwhile, Southeastern revealed major disruption to services over the Christmas period due to engineering work. See over for full story.

Bluewater hosts the launch of county's Poppy Appeal

A PARADE will take place at the Bluewater shopping complex today to mark the official launch of the Kent Poppy Appeal.

Veterans young and old alike will follow a cadet band inside the centre, starting at 11am from the Glow Theatre venue. This will be followed by a short performance by the Brompton Military Wives choir.

The Royal British Legion is

inviting people in Kent to uncover the story behind the poppy – from its origins as a symbol of remembrance and hope, to the modern stories of how it helps the Armed Forces community today.

A pop-up poppy shop will also be in place at Bluewater from Sunday until November 7. Remembrance Sunday this year is on November 8.

Academy set to bid farewell to principal in the new year

PRINCIPAL of the Cornwallis Academy in Maidstone has confirmed he is to step down after Christmas, as his successor was this week unveiled.

Isabelle Linney-Drouet will replace David Simons, who has been at the school since 2004. She was previously vice principal at Ashford girls' grammar school Highworth.

The academy, part of the Future Schools Trust, says Mr Simons is to 'pursue other opportunities in the west county'.

Mr Simons said: "I know I leave the academy in a strong position and that it will continue to grow from strength to strength."

Sir Nick Williams, CEO of Future Schools Trust, said: "We wish him all the very best for the future."



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Major rail service disruption during festive time

SOUTHEASTERN has confirmed there will be trains to or from Charing Cross, Cannon Street, Waterloo East or London Bridge for ten days from the evening of Christmas Eve.

It comes as part of the on-going work at London Bridge, with all services diverted to and from Victoria, Blackfriars and New Cross.

Network Rail's south east route managing director Alasdair Coates said: "The work we are doing this Christmas is a crucial part of our railway upgrade plan and will mean a better, more reliable railway for passengers when they return to work in the new year. "I'm sorry our work will mean changes to services but the holiday period gives us the chance to progress."



RVP: Wants to build cinema on roof

Shopping hub plans major expansion

THE Royal Victoria Place shopping complex in Tunbridge Wells has unveiled plans for a major redesign which would include a multi-screen cinema in the heart of the town centre for the first time since the year 2000.

The proposals for the Royal Victoria Place would see a state-of-the-art digital cinema on the roof of the existing centre, along with new restaurants and cafes.

In addition, there would be space for large shops and a new entrance.

The public got to see the plans during a public exhibition on Friday and Saturday.

The last time a multi-screen cinema was in the town was 15 years ago when the Odeon closed. The site has remained empty ever since and was only eventually demolished last year.

Nicky Blanchard, centre manager, said: "For Tunbridge Wells to thrive it needs to retain a vibrant retail and leisure offer that meets the needs of local people as well as the many tourists that visit.

"We believe our plans focus on offering the type of space required to attract the type of stores our customers want to see. We want to play a leading role in supporting the town centre by encouraging more people to visit more often."

Old Bailey court date set as man stands accused of serial poisoning killings

By Emily Pennink

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AN ALLEGED serial killer accused of drugging and murdering a 21-year-old Gravesend man and three other young men over 14 months will stand trial in April next year.

Stephen Port, 40, allegedly met his victims on gay websites and invited them to his house where he poisoned them with party drug GHB.

After suffering from overdoses, the men, in their twenties, were dumped in or near a churchyard in east London.

On Sunday last week, Port, of Cooke Street, Barking, in east London, was charged with four counts of murder and four counts of administering a poison with intent to endanger life or inflict grievous bodily harm.

He was dressed in a green jumpsuit with one yellow sleeve and shoulder panel when he appeared at the Old Bailey via video link from Pentonville prison on Wednesday.

The bald defendant sat with his



ACCUSED: Stephen Port

head bowed and spoke only to confirm his name during the short preliminary hearing.

Recorder of London Nicholas Hilliard QC set a provisional timetable for the case with a plea and case

management hearing on January 6 and a trial on April 11.

Prosecutor Jonathan Rees QC estimated that the trial would take four weeks.

No application for bail was made and Port was remanded in custody.

The first victim, Anthony Walgate, 23, was found dead on Cooke Street on June 19 last year. He was a fashion and design student at Middlesex University who was originally from Hull but living in Barnet.

The second victim, Gabriel Kovari, 22, was found by a dog walker near St Margaret's churchyard on August 28 last year. He was originally from Slovakia but lived in Lewisham, south London.

Just under a month later, on September 20 last year, the same dog walker discovered the body of Daniel Whitworth, 21, from Gravesend, near the same churchyard.

Then on September 14 this year, Jack Taylor, 25, a forklift truck driver from Dagenham, was found dead near the abbey ruins close to North Street.

Minister meets with county's developers

TUNBRIDGE Wells MP and Conservative minister Greg Clark met developers in the county this week to reiterate the government's desire to kick-start a major building programme.

The communities and local government minister met with the Kent Developers' Group (KDG), the organisation championing the cause of residential and commercial property companies in the county, to discuss the major issues around the need to build more.

Mr Clark said: "We're determined to pull out all the stops to keep the country building."

Nick Fenton, chairman of KDG, said: "Getting planning permission and the necessary finance to develop new homes and commercial property remains challenging, and all at a time when demand has never been higher.

"The meeting was an excellent opportunity for us to highlight how recent changes to government policy are impacting on the work we do to deliver more homes and commercial properties."

X Factor winners to appear at Bluewater

CHART stars Little Mix are to make a special public appearance in Kent during half-term week – but for a chance to meet the performers you'll need to buy a box of their new perfume.

The band, who won X Factor in 2011, are best known for hits Black Magic and Wings.

And on Tuesday, October 27 they will be appearing at the Bluewater shopping centre as part of a promotional tour to promote their new scent called Gold Magic.

They will appear at the Glow venue in Bluewater between noon and 2pm. But the only way to be sure of meeting them and getting their autographs is by buying a box of their perfume in advance. Some 100 boxes, in addition to 300 already sold via the Perfume Shop's online store, will be available on the day at the Bluewater branch.

The perfume is described as "opening with a burst of playful hints of fruit...with the base musky and warm but also sweet and hypnotic."

Protesters storm airport control tower

PROTESTERS from an anti-arms group broke into the Manston Airport site and took over its control tower in protest over a planning application.

The campaign group – East Kent Campaign Against the Arms Trade (Caat) – is protesting against an application submitted by Instro Precision to expand its premises into the area.

The company is part of Israel's largest arms manufacturers – Elbit Systems – which makes drones used by the Israeli Army.

The protest group says the drones are responsible for 'major war crimes' and wanted to block an application that was heard – and then rejected – later that day by Thanet District Council.

Bob Foy, from the group, said: "Instro Precision's parent company not only makes drones used by Israel to oppress Palestinians, but it also sells to the regimes in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, both known to have supported Isis either financially or militarily."

The protest passed off without incident.

£100m Chinese cash boost for London Paramount scheme

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

THE multi-billion pound London Paramount complex proposed for a disused cement works on the Swanscombe peninsula received a much-needed shot in the arm this week after securing £100million of Chinese investment.

The announcement, which coincided with the visit of China's president Xi Jinping, will be seen as a major vote of confidence in the project which earlier this month put back its opening date a year, to 2021.

The money, from investment group Sino-Fortune, was part of a £5.2bn investment in a host of UK projects.

London Paramount is set to cost a total £3.2bn and is seen as one of the major drivers of regeneration in the area, creating 27,000 new jobs and attracting millions of visitors every year.

It will comprise a major theme park in addition to 5,000 hotel rooms, live entertainment venues and some industrial space.

David Testa, CEO, London Paramount, said: "This shows that our vision for London Paramount and its location in North Kent with excellent transport links to London, Europe and the rest of the world, is appealing to investors, residents and tourists alike.



PARK: The entertainment site is due to open its doors to visitors in 2021

"SinoFortune Group of China's decision reflects the unique economic and regenerative opportunity provided by this multi-billion pound project, which will employ thousands of people and be a huge additional offering to the UK's entertainment and tourism industries."

However, not everyone is happy with the new deal. The Peninsular Management Group – established by local business owners – says it could sound the death knell for thousands of jobs already at the site.

The three estates – Northfleet Industrial

Estate, the Kent Kraft Estate and the Manor Way Business Park – are home to approximately 110 businesses who directly or indirectly employ up to 5,000 local staff.

Doug Hilton from the group said: "Nearly all of the employees are local people and thus the local economy and community depends on their livelihoods. To date discussions with the developers have been very limited and no serious offers have been forthcoming to relocate or compensate either the businesses or the landowners."

Sex offender preyed on girl for 14 years

A SEX offender who routinely abused a young girl has been jailed for 14 years.

Antony Gorf, 62, formerly of Ethelbert Crescent, Cliftonville, Margate, sexually assaulted the girl on several occasions over an 11-year period starting in the late 1990s.

The offences occurred while he was living in Wallers Road, Faversham. He was found guilty at the Old Bailey back in August.

Drugs haul as three arrested after raid

HEROIN and cocaine with a street value of £1,000 and cash of a similar value were seized by police in a raid on a property in Margate on Tuesday.

A 38-year-old woman from Margate, and three teenagers were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs. All have been bailed while enquiries continue.

Turn your clocks back

DON'T forget to turn your clocks back this morning as we bid farewell to British Summer Time.

The clocks went back at 2am on Sunday morning as we return to Greenwich Mean Time, meaning the mornings will get lighter and the evenings darker earlier. But the good news is we did get an extra hour in bed this morning.

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Wasp never seen in UK before found in our nature reserve

A SPECIES of wasp which has never been recorded in the country has been discovered at a nature reserve in Tunbridge Wells.

The parasitic wasp, *Lymantrich-neumon disparis*, now known to be a genus and a new species to Britain, was found by a butterfly collector at the RSPB's Broadwater Warren.

But it has taken two years for experts to confirm the 2013 discovery made by Tony Davis, of Butterfly Conservation, who was undertaking a moth monitoring programme when he came across the specimen.

He said: "I'd finished my work and was leaving the reserve but couldn't resist one last sweep on my net and that's when I found the wasp. I knew it was something special, but I could never have guessed it was an entirely new species to the country."



Dr Gavin Broad, an expert on ichneumonid wasps, employed by the Natural History Museum, has confirmed the species which has no common name and no other specimen has yet been found.

Dr Broad said he believed the find had been a recent colonist from continental Europe. In Europe, the wasp lives off moth species including the gypsy moth, which has recently colonised parts of southern England.

Police gets top marks for their financial handling

POLICE and crime commissioner Ann Barnes has warned 'tough times' are ahead for the force with more savings likely to be needed for next year's budget.

She made the comments as she announced the latest inspection report had rated the force's financial sustainability with top marks.

She said: "Unfortunately cuts still had to be made to officer and staff numbers, and in 2015/16 we're having to save another £19 million which means another £14m coming off the workforce budget."

"The Home Office is yet to announce how deep the next round of cuts will be – between 25 and 40 per cent – and how Kent Police will be affected by its new funding formula, so

while we can't be sure exactly what further savings will need to be made we do anticipate more tough times ahead for policing in Kent."

The cuts so far have been managed well, according to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) which inspects all 43 forces in England and Wales each year. The inspectors assess police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy. Despite the diminishing budgets Kent Police was rated 'outstanding'.

Mrs Barnes added: "I am delighted HMIC has found Kent Police's financial sustainability to be outstanding, and I will continue to prioritise community policing in line with the vision which the chief constable and myself share."

Crowds flock for singer

HUNDREDS of fans flocked to a record shop in Canterbury city centre last weekend for the chance to meet pop star Peter Andre.

The singer and TV star was at the HMV store signing copies of his new album last Saturday. Some 700 fans attended, some queuing for hours to ensure their place.

Return from Ethiopia

CHURCH leaders from Dartford and Sittingbourne, along with members of their congregation, have just returned after a trip to Ethiopia to visit children they sponsor.

Part of the Net Church group, they sponsor more than 100 children through Christian charity Compassion UK.

All change on Tontine

WORK started this week on making Folkestone's Tontine Street two-way for buses and taxis.

Local traders are fuming, however, over the loss of car parking spaces.

The work is expected to continue until next March.

Labour alderman award

MEDWAY Council has bestowed the title of 'honorary alderman of the borough' on Labour stalwart Paul Harriott.

First elected to Gillingham council in 1962, he has been recognised for his 52 years of continuous local government representation, serving Twydall from 1973 to this May.

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Top Three Stories



1. Apprentice in Kent

Lord Sugar says you're hired to county

2. Police budget warning

Ann Barnes says 'tough times' ahead

3. Noye jail move blocked

M25 murderer's open prison plan rejected

The Essential Guide:



Fireworks guide 2015

Where to go to see the best pyrotechnic displays across our skies this year



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Campaigners stormed the control tower at the former Manston Airport site in protest at a planned expansion of a company they say makes parts for weapons. The application for expansion was rejected by Thanet District Council on Wednesday.

Missed last week's...?

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Top Three Blogs



1. Star Wars mirrors life

It's not just good versus evil in latest film

2. Big boys and their toys

Men become children when 'gaming'

3. Breastfeeding's great

So why is it still so controversial in public?

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Should Thanet's Ukip leader Chris Wells resign?

1 Yes - 65%

2 No - 34%

3 Undecided - 1%



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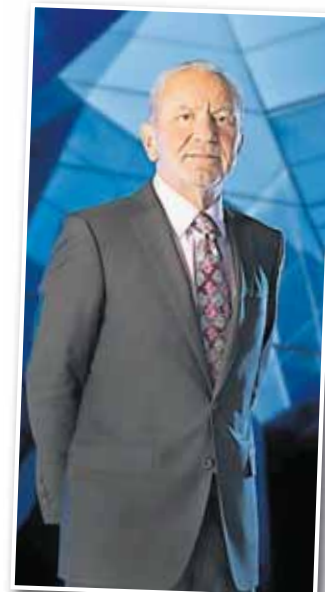
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BUSINESS: Candidates from The Apprentice visited Hudson's Fish in Herne Bay among other local stores in Whitstable and Dover. Pictures: BBC

Stores shine as The Apprentice hits county for latest frantic task

Millions tuned in on Wednesday night to see the business hopefuls looking for Lord Sugar's backing as part of the hit show travel around our coastline in a bid to avoid the dreaded words 'you're fired'

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

KENT'S coastline played a starring role on hit BBC series The Apprentice this week.

The candidates travelled to Dover Castle, where they were given a shopping list by Lord Alan Sugar, and aides Karren Brady and Claude Littner, which had to be acquired either side of the Channel.

A number of local businesses featured on the show, which was broadcast on Wednesday night, as contestants scoured for the nine items required.

The two teams – divided into boys and girls – split into sub-teams, with half searching for the items in Kent, and half searching in northern France, testing their skills of negotiation in order to secure the products needed for as cheap a price as possible.

Ultimately, the boys' team were victorious, and after some tense boardroom action, Lord Sugar fired management student Jenny Garbis from the process.

The item which proved decisive was an inflatable boat, which, after much deliberation, the girls' team bought from Sharp & Enright store on Snargate Street in Dover, on their fourth visit, having initially refused to pay the asking price, for £250.

Owner Sarah Sharp told KoS: "They haggled me down but not by very much, I wanted £255 but they admitted they were desperate.

"The candidates get criticised a lot but I thought they were good, they

certainly weren't bitchy which is the way it sometimes comes across, although it wasn't apparent to me who was the team leader.

"Shows like these are clever and very professionally done, they put in all the bad bits to make it much more light-hearted and fun.

"I don't think Jenny should have been fired, she came across well, and I think the project manager took the wrong people into the boardroom.

"But this has been good exposure for the business and I've already had quite a few people pop in.

"Overall it was a very fun and enjoyable experience."

By contrast, the boys were praised for their alternative way of thinking, as they went to Toys 'n' Trends on Tankerton Road, Tankerton, rather

than a specialist sailing shop, and were able to buy an item which fit the requirements for just £10, after initially being quoted £14.99.

Helen Bellenie, who sold the boys the boat, said: "They had a chance of a small or large boat, and the small one was only just the right size, so they absolutely made the right decision.

"They were very nice and very friendly and good fun all round. I was quite nervous, to be honest, and just wanted it over and done with.

"I thought the girls were dreadful when it came to buying the boat and the boys thoroughly deserved to win."

Another business familiar to Kent viewers which featured on the programme was The Dinghy Store on

Sea Wall, Whitstable, owned by Jeremy Fry.

The boys visited the store to buy an anchor, which they successfully managed to haggle down to £20 from Mr Fry's preferred price of £27.95.

"I only met the boys' team but they all seemed like good, friendly guys," he said.

"The guy I dealt with, Scott, seemed pretty switched on.

"They haggled me down but to be honest there was a little bit of coercion off-camera, they put you under a bit of pressure and it's all quite staged.

"You're sworn to secrecy about the whole thing and it's quite funny because we're quite good friends with the fishmonger's from Herne Bay and we were both on it but couldn't tell each other for ages.

"But we watched the show all together on Wednesday, which was good fun.

"I've received about 400 texts, countless Facebook messages and tweets and loads of people coming into the store, it's amazing how popular the show is and how many people watch it."

The fishmonger's in question was Hudson's Fish on the High Street in Herne Bay.

Owner Claire Hudson, who sold mussels to the boys' team for £5.05 per kilogram, said: "They were just cheeky chappies and to be honest I couldn't fault them, they negotiated well and they were good fun.

"I don't think I felt any pressure, you just kind of enter into the spirit of it."

WHY DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE HAVE BEEN REGULAR VISITORS

ITV'S much-hyped new star-studded drama Jekyll and Hyde is aired this weekend - and eagle-eyed viewers will be able to spot Kent's starring role.

What's more the county has cashed in as a consequence on close to three quarters of a million pounds.

The 10-part series shot scenes on location in Rochester, the Historic Dockyard Chatham and the Elmley Nature Reserve on Sheppey.

The series, which focuses on the grandson of the original famed doctor, Robert Jekyll, starts on ITV1 this Sunday at 6.30pm.

Conceived and written by Charlie Higson, it was inspired by the classic novel by Robert Louis Stevenson.

It stars Tom Bateman, Richard E Grant and Natalie Gumede (Doctor Who, Coronation Street).

Kent County Council's film office assisted the production in the early stages of the project in



DRAMA: Tom Bateman as Jekyll and Hyde

April 2014 and suggested locations, put the production in touch with local contacts and

attended site visits. Filming took place in Kent over 28 days with an extra 34 days pre and post-production days between February and July 2015, with the production spending an estimated £720,000 in the county.

Series producer Foz Allan said: "As a Kent-based producer, it is always a pleasure to film in the county and work closely alongside the Kent Film Office.

"Although, we couldn't find a suitable studio space to base the entire production in Kent, the film office helped us find some great locations and introduced us to local contacts.

"The series has some great talent behind it and will be a thrilling watch."

Gabrielle Lindemann from the Kent County Council Film Office said: "It is always a pleasure to be able to support a production from the very early stages.

"We look forward to seeing Kent featuring on such an exciting show."



SUPPORT: Staff are specially trained to provide round the clock support and care for victims of sexual assault at the centre

Sex assault victims get 24-hour support at Beech House facility

The groundbreaking centre is leading the way in tailored victim support reports **Jamie Weir...**

SEXUAL assault is one of the worst and most abhorrent crimes according to Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes, and that's why a joint initiative at a centre to help victims is of such importance.

The centre in question is Beech House – a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) – located just next to Maidstone Hospital. This week it celebrated its second anniversary and with a rise in the number of sexual crimes, its importance in supporting victims is growing.

Across Kent recorded sexual crimes increased by 12 per cent between June 2014 and June 2015 (from 2,447 to 2,730), while recorded rape had grown by 22 per cent (from 783 to 956). And Gary Green, the director of Mountain Healthcare – the company which runs Beech House – says he believes the figure could be even higher.

He told KoS: “We truly believe there's a massive under reporting of these crimes. It's hard to establish exactly why this is, but some of that might be a lack of confidence from victims that they'll be believed.”

That makes it all the more important for victims of sexual assaults to be able to speak to people who can help in a confidential manner according to Mr Green, and that means without referring them to the police.

The NHS estimates that just 11 per cent of rapes are reported to the police.

He said: “The importance of having the ability to accept all cases, not just

police cases, at Beech House is what makes it such a successful centre. If people who've suffered this trauma have the confidence that they can come to a place like this, and know they don't have to speak to the police if they do not want to then it helps. They regain control over what happens to them, and that is so important for people after this type of crime.”

The healthcare company has specially trained nurses, able to help with a sexual assault victim's immediate health needs and also able to provide forensic medical examinations for those who want to speak to the police. The nurses are also able to provide crisis support for victims in a safe and caring environment.

The centre opened two years ago as part of a drive by Mrs Barnes to improve the support which victims of sexual crime get in Kent. She said that it was a significant change from what had come before it.

Mrs Barnes said: “Two years ago, not long after I became PCC, I found that the facility we had in the county for victims of sexual assault was absolutely not fit for purpose.”

“For one thing it was not open 24 hours a day which meant that if you were a victim of sexual assault after the hours of 9 to 5 there was a good chance you'd have to leave the county to get the support and help you'd need.

“I vowed we would do something about it then, and now, two years later this county has an absolutely first class referral centre for victims of sex-

“ Any kind of sexual assault is devastating and can potentially impact on all aspects of a person's life. Work, physical and emotional health can all suffer..”

Fay Maxted,
CEO of The Survivors Trust

ual assault; the most horrendous crime and an absolute violation of a person.”

According to Mrs Barnes, everyone involved – including the NHS - cut through the red tape to get the centre opened quickly and efficiently.

One of the key things which she, and other partners in the scheme wanted, was the ability for victims to make their own contact with the centre, rather than having to do it through any official channels.

Mrs Barnes told KoS: “We cut through the red tape and managed to get it up and going and providing a really good service.

“What's really important about this centre is that people can self refer; you don't have to go through the police and you don't have to go through the courts. I'm not sure I'd want to, because it is a horrendous crime, so it's great that people get the option and helps make it ever more

accessible to those who are victims of this crime.”

Instead of victims having to take the perhaps painful route of being referred to the centre by the police, they are able to contact it themselves. That can help victims take the first step in the process with confidence.

Fay Maxted is the CEO of The Survivors Trust, an umbrella organisation which helps to support those who have been victims of sexual assault.

She told KoS that Beech House was a key strand for turning victims into survivors.

She said: “Any kind of sexual assault is devastating and can potentially impact on all aspects of a person's life. Work, education, physical and emotional and mental health can all suffer. Those ripples can carry on and have a long term impact on people, causing them all sorts of trauma in their lives.

“What's important for people looking for help is that they get a safe, supportive response which doesn't force them to report it if they don't want to, and gives them a safe setting to get the care that they need.

“Sexual violence counselling, and independent support is absolutely crucial. What's offered at Beech House is that kind of support, and it carries through as long as people need it.

“Where appropriate and with a person's permission, people can be referred on to two agencies we work with in Kent, the East Kent Rape Line and Family Matters. That aftercare can really be tailored to them, and

help them to rebuild their lives.”

The commissioner also believes that personalised care and support is crucial, with Beech House helping victims navigate towards further help at any point.

Mrs Barnes said: “The centre gives victims various routes to come here. Sometimes victims don't want help immediately, they may want it two or three years down the line.

“Responsibility for victim support now rests with commissioners like me across the country, and I do choose to give money to third sector organisations like East Kent Rape Line and Family Matters to get victims the counselling services which they need to recover from these traumas.”

It isn't just the PCC which helps to fund Beech House though – the NHS has also been a key partner in delivering the centre.

Vanessa Fowler is the head of health and justice commissioning at NHS England South East.

She told KoS: “We're celebrating the fact that victims of sexual assault now have somewhere dedicated that they can come 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We're here to help all people – whether they choose to go to the police or not – across Kent and Medway. The 24-hour service is groundbreaking in Kent, and over the last year we worked hard to set up communications with GP practices, voluntary organisations and other groups to ensure that everyone knows we're here and can provide the support which people need.”



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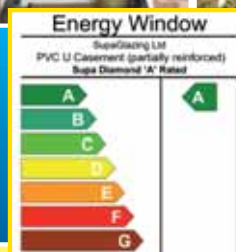
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Villages braced for change as work begins on 1,000 homes

It has managed to keep a low profile so far, but work begins in earnest soon on the first phase of houses on a once thriving industrial site. We take a look at the plans behind Peters Village and what the future holds for the area...

By Harry James

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR many, a multi-million pound development close to the banks of the River Medway is in a rather forgotten part of the county. Its presence will be felt, however.

Sited on a once thriving cement works which was a hub of local employment and industry, the Peters Village development will not only emerge as a major new housing site (a 'community not a new estate' its developers insist) but also make its mark.

Primarily through the creation of a new river crossing which will herald its arrival to the landscape.

Linking the villages of Wouldham, Burham and Eccles, the scheme is certainly not short on ambition.

Costing £50million – £19.5m of which comes from the government's Homes and Communities Agency – the all new road bridge will link the 1,000 homes it will deliver with Halling and Snodland to the west.

Built on a brownfield site, it will transform what was the former Peters Lime and Cement Works – a once bustling industrial site which employed 1,000 people and operated 80 barges, before it closed in the 1920s.

Industry continued on the site, albeit on a low level, until developer Trenport Investments, which is driving the plans, acquired the land in 2001. Since then it has stood dormant.

But that all changes early next year when the first phase of the 1,000 new homes start to be built. Not that it has been all plain sailing.

It has faced opposition from local residents' groups, which pointed to the impact on the environment and frustration at the planning process.

Wouldham Parish Council said residents raised concerns on flood risks, increased traffic, impact to local water supplies and the fact the homes do not serve any new employment opportunities.

Developers, however, insist they have simply been responding to urgent government calls for new homes in the south east.

The new site will comprise roads, shops, amenities and open spaces.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC) originally approved the scheme, only for it to be mothballed due to the 2007 recession.

Infrastructure then started in May 2014,

with the biggest element being a major new road from the A228 roundabout between Halling and Snodland, using a replacement bridge over the west bank's north-south rail line, before spanning the Medway to link the east bank.

In a report compiled for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council last May, Wouldham residents aired concerns the development was "purely a housing development with no employment provision other than to provide the village with a local shop, doctors and primary school eventually".

It added: "This forces people to commute to areas of employment such as Medway, Maidstone and Kings Hill and we are concerned this just adds to traffic congestion and air pollution in the local region."

"Unfortunately the old Peters Works which, although an eyesore, did provide many villagers with local employment, was closed years ago when these development plans were agreed. That is the only reason the land has been standing idle and degraded further in the past few years."

Developers are convinced, however, that all will be forgotten once it is built and the benefits felt.

"This river bridge is the key to everything," explained Trenport director Chris Hall. "Those moving into Peters Village will then be attracted by easy access to jobs, education, shopping, recreation and London, but those same benefits apply to all neighbouring villages, on both banks."

However, he admitted that not all local people had seen it quite that way:

"In any development, there will be some who don't welcome change, but we worked closely with TMBC planners and members – notably ward councillors Dave Davis and Roger Dalton – Kent Highways and parish councils to meet any reservations of existing residents, and invited public comment."

"We revised parking allocations in the planning application for phase one of the scheme to exceed county council recommendations, we re-worked the roads system and liaised with bus operators to avoid congestion that Wouldham currently suffers due to parked cars."

"Housebuilding has been phased so that occupation of new homes does not exceed existing roads capacity until the new bridge opens next year."

"Phase one must set a high quality tone, the blueprint for a new community that is visually



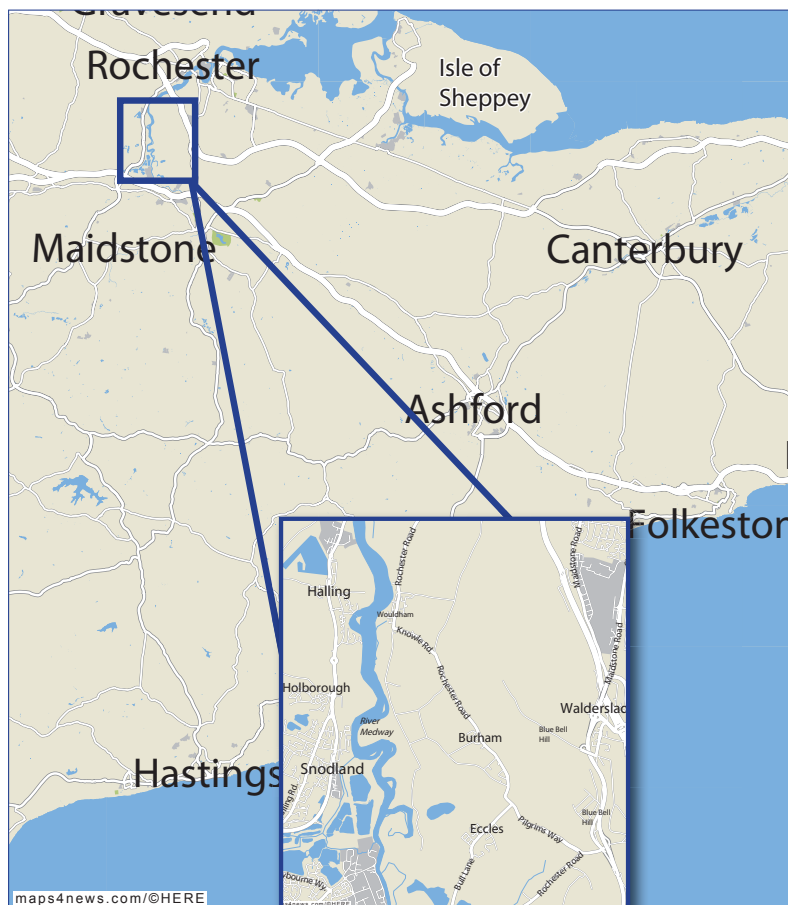
SITE: Aerial view of new crossing, left, and the area of just where the development will soon start to take shape

interesting and characterful. It includes the riverside promenade and bespoke lighting – a showpiece for the entire community.”

He added that having planned a new primary school to serve those moving to Peters Village, Trenport was approached by Wouldham Primary School – currently celebrating 150 years – about re-locating there too. He adds:

“The school governors want a state-of-the-art facility to replace the much loved, but dated existing school, with space to meet Wouldham’s needs and future demand from Peters Village. Trenport welcomes the initiative, which is supported by the education authority – public consultation is starting now.

Turn to Page 16



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FUTURE: Artist's impression of how the new bridge over the Medway will look once completed

Turn from Page 15

"Some people have simply asked 'Do we need more housing?' but TMBC has a legal duty to meet borough housing need, and had 1,055 households on its housing needs register in 2013 (source: Kent Home-choice); 250 of the 1,000 homes in Peters Village will be affordable for those on lower or limited incomes, maybe hoping to stay near family members in neighbouring villages rather than moving away. And we already have a healthy list of inquiries for the private homes."

What do you think of the development? Is it good news or another sign of parts of our countryside being concreted over? Share your views and join the debate - email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP.

FACTFILE: PETERS VILLAGE

- The site is approximately 35.05 hectares (86.61 acres) - 11.1 hectares (27.3 acres) is public open space.
- The development is mostly low rise.
- A new local centre next to the river includes: community centre, medical centre, pharmacy, convenience store and smaller shops, plus office accommodation.
- The project also includes: a primary school, open space and playing fields, riverside walk, plus future protection and management for the Peters Pit nature reserve.

SECRETS REVEALED

DESPITE industrial scarring, the Peters Village site is rich in history – human and natural.

The former Peters works land was notorious for car dumping and fly-tipping, and blighted by motorcycle scramblers and 'green-laning' 4x4 drivers.

But after acquisition in 2001, Trenport installed a site ranger and hefty security barriers, and cleared the mess to reveal a haven for rarities such as bats, orchids, and the Adonis blue butterfly and marsh mallow moth.

Trenport also funded innovative 'newt fences' to prevent the area's rare great crested newt wandering into areas at risk from traffic or construction.

And a new project to foster the rare man orchid has been applauded by ecological consultants Bioscan: "Orchid propagation is such 'a dark art' that it reflects well on Trenport that it is

prepared to fund something with such a slim chance of success."

Part of the site was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Trenport has worked with the Government's Natural England and the Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) – funding the latter with a £20,000-a-year grant.

As work like this guaranteed the site's future, steps were taken to secure the past: archaeologists were called in 10 years ago to investigate land always likely to yield secrets:

"Occupation by many cultures over time underlines how important the Medway would have been for moving people and goods around," explained Chris Clarke, archaeological consultant leading the project.

"Even the Romans – famed for their roads – couldn't ignore how a decent sized boat could be laden to carry 20-30 times what a

contemporary cart would carry, while needing little manpower to move it."

Archaeologists then moved onsite in early 2014, six months ahead of construction teams, to confirm a thread of human habitation back to Neolithic times, recently aired at two free public archaeological presentations in Burham. Some 250 people either attended or expressed interest in doing so – five times normal expectations for a development on this scale.

Unfortunately, there were no headline finds such as a treasure trove burial or intriguing human remains – though three graves were unearthed.

There were, however, Roman remains close to Peters works and another site showing possible temporary fortifications. Pottery shards from most of the periods were also found onsite.

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Crisis looms in struggling care sector as financial pressures bite

The introduction of the new living wage could lead to providers walking away from a sector which they say is no longer economically viable according to council bosses and campaigners alike....

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

CARE provision is in crisis according to providers and council leaders alike, who say something needs to be done before it's too late.

The reason for problems within the sector is cash. As budgets have been slashed, and more is expected for less, it has left some care providers looking to abandon the market altogether.

Alongside a drop in budgets, there's been a rise in wage bills and other costs – that's set to become an even bigger concern for businesses when the new living wage is introduced in April 2016.

Mark Lloyd is the managing director of care provider Avante Care, which successfully runs a number of homes across the county. He says the living wage will have a profound impact on the sector.

He said: "A hard pressed sector will collapse where few providers receive the level of local government funding. The disparity between self-funders in



HELP: Questions are being asked over whether there will be enough care provision in the coming years

registered care and local authority funded placements will dramatically increase in April, further highlighting the two tier system as providers seek to cover some of the cost pressure through self-funder fee increases.

"No one disputes the benefits of finally acknowledging the under paid care workers after many years of public sector funding squeezes but the failure of government to acknowledge and provide additional funding to local authorities, to meet this new initiative will have disastrous consequences for many hundreds of thousands of people who depend on daily care and support."

It's a concern shared by many, with Kent County Council's leader Paul Carter flagging up the impact the introduction of the minimum wage would have on care sector provision. He said that if there was no help for beleaguered care providers, it would likely lead to them choosing to move away from the sector.

Graham Gibbens is the cabinet member with responsibility for care. He says the situation will worsen if no action was taken.

Cllr Gibbens said: "The issue of care is set to grow more and more in the coming years as our demography changes. We have an aging population, and a significant projected rise in the numbers of those living with

dementia. With that in mind, it's a topic which will undoubtedly grow over the next few years."

One group which works hard to help older people struggling to get care is Age UK. It's operations director in Medway, Heather Woolley, told KoS that the situation was already at crisis levels.

Mrs Woolley said: "There comes a point where services simply can't continue under a certain level of funding. A lot of providers have moved away from the market as a result of not being able to make money."

"We currently see the NHS struggling to discharge people from hospital because there simply aren't enough people to care for those who are well enough to go home, but need visits to help look after them in their own homes. It would help make savings in the NHS as well as freeing up beds if more money was put into care provision."

"The system of health and social care is already at a crisis point in care for our elderly and it's only likely to get worse unless something is done to help support care providers."

SECTOR STILL HAS SUCCESS STORIES...

DESPITE greater pressures in the sector, many care homes are still striving to give high quality services to their residents. Amherst Court in Chatham this week became the first care home in Medway to receive an 'Outstanding' rating from the Care Quality Commission after the introduction of a more rigorous inspection in October 2014. Since then just two homes have received this rating in Kent. The home offers care for older people living with dementia, something which is set to rise. Chatham and Ayelsford MP, Tracey Crouch said: "Staff at Amherst Court in Chatham should be proud in ensuring a safe and caring environment, which has been recognised by the CQC."

Chalkwell

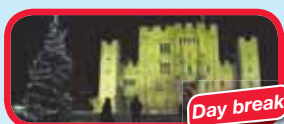
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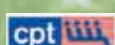
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Kent Test: Experts on the route to grammar

A panel of head teachers and education experts gathered in County Hall this week to discuss county's selective exam

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE grammar school places crisis which continues to fuel a fire of worry and concern from anxious parents has passed - that's according to a panel of experts examining the thorny issue of the Kent Test in Maidstone this week.

It also claimed the squeeze on grammar places in the west of the county has now eased and, what's more, there are still places available in many grammars across Kent in this year's Year 7 cohort.

However, the demand for the best schools remain as strong as ever and the need to know the appeal process and what is required to try and land your child a place is more important than ever.

The 11 Plus and Kent Test Conference took place inside County Hall - but not staged in conjunction with Kent County Council - and was attended by nearly 100 people, among whom were parents, teachers, school

governors and tutors.

A panel of experts addressed the audience - among them head teachers of both primaries and grammar schools, and experts in the appeals process.

Peter Read, Kent on Sunday columnist and long time education advisor - whose KentAdvice.co.uk site has become one of the county's most significant resources on education issues - outlined the numbers of students sitting and passing the Kent Test and reiterated that despite some media reports, there is not a huge shortage of places.

He insisted: "This month we have seen claims that almost 1,500 students who passed the Kent Test will miss out on grammar places.

"The reality is that for 2015, entry, of the 1,696 out of county children assessed suitable for grammar school, just 429 were allocated Kent places in March 2015, a figure that will have fallen further as some of these found more suitable schools nearer their homes. The majority of the 1,696 will have taken the Kent Test as one of a number of selection tests, sometimes as many as seven, some along with



private school tests, and most of these choose to go to another school elsewhere."

He told the audience: "Kent has a selective system, comprising both grammar and non-selective schools, which overall performs above its expectation at both GCSE and A Level. There is no appetite to change this, so the task is to make the selection process as fair as possible and I believe the new Kent Test and the admission flexibilities are a step in the right direction."

In addition, Matthew Bartlett, headteacher of the Dover Grammar School for Girls, said some grammars he was aware of were increasing their intake.

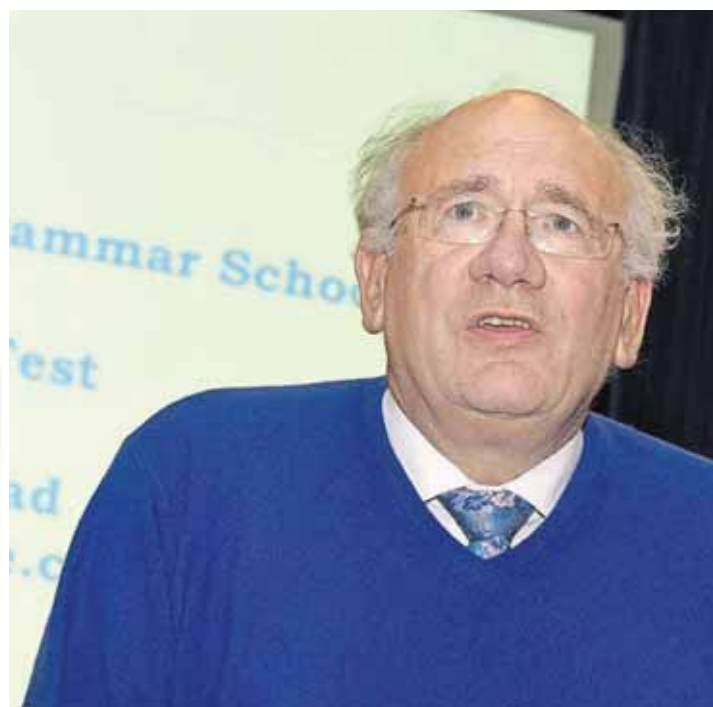
He told the audience: "What some are doing are taking on more students in order to cover up gaps in decreasing government funding."

Grammars have been hit hard in recent years, with some reporting a drop of more than 30 per cent in funding year-on-year.

A key issue - particularly with parents attending - was the issue of appeals to grammar schools for those who are trying to get into a heavily over-subscribed selective or whose child was borderline.

Marylyn Atkins, an education consultant and independent appeal administrator, talked through the appeals process and how parents need to have a strong compelling case.

The event was organised by Bright Young Things and supported by KoS.



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“...I believe the new Kent Test and the admission flexibilities are a step in the right direction...”

Peter Read,
Education specialist



MORGAN DEFENDS GRAMMAR ANNEXE

BLOCKING the expansion of a successful grammar school would have been “perverse”, the education secretary has claimed.

Nicky Morgan defended last week’s decision to allow the Weald of Kent grammar in Tonbridge to open a new site in Sevenoaks as part of a major expansion.

She told MPs the plans were clearly an expansion of the same school, with pupils and teachers due to work across both sites.

But shadow education secretary Lucy Powell condemned the plans as allowing the first new taxpayer-funded grammar school in 50 years, warning the decision would “open the floodgates”.

Mrs Morgan said: “It would have

been perverse, given the need for more good and outstanding school places to have rejected this application for expansion purely on the basis that the school in question is a grammar school.

“This was a decision to approve a proposed expansion of this school that was taken on the facts in this case and it is my firm belief we should not stand in the way of good schools, all good schools, being able to expand.”

The annexe in Sevenoaks will be on the former Wildernes school site in the town.

If there is no legal challenge to the ruling, the school should open its doors to its first cohort in September 2017.



BUSY: Peter Read, main image, joined Matthew Bartlett, left, Marylyn Atkins, right, on the panel

POLITICIANS DEMAND FAIRER SCHOOL FUNDING FROM PM

SIX Kent MPs have this week added their names to an open letter to the prime minister, calling on school funding reform.

Under the current system, some schools in Kent are among the 0.5 per cent lowest funded in the country.

The Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar in Faversham, for example, receives just £4,497 per pupil, while the ten best funded areas of England receive an average grant of £6,297. Grammars have been hit particularly hard.

Those supporting the call are Sittingbourne’s Gordon Hender-

son, Faversham’s Helen Whateley, Thanet North’s Sir Roger Gale, South Thanet’s Craig Mackinlay, Maidstone’s Helen Grant and Ashford’s Damian Green.

The Conservative politicians are all working on a cross-party basis, calling on David Cameron to implement the funding formula proposed by the F40 group, a campaign for fairer funding in education.

In their letter, the MPs say: “It is widely acknowledged that the existing school funding model is a muddle and that funding for individual schools with similar

pupil characteristics is arbitrary and unfair.

“At a time of spending restraint it is more important than ever that funding is allocated based on need.

“We want the children in our schools to continue to have a broad range of subjects to study, good resources to use, well maintained buildings, reasonably sized classes and excellent pastoral support. Fairer funding is integral to all of this, and we urge you to deliver it.”

What do you think? Email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.



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The Force is strong as film tickets sell fast

Fans will be packing cinemas across Kent at one minute past midnight for the first showings of the new Star Wars movie

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

STAR Wars fans need to call on the Force to help them secure tickets for the opening night of the latest instalment of the space saga this week, after demand crashed websites.

The Force Awakens hits cinema screens on December 16 and continues the story left off by 1983's classic Return of the Jedi.

Reuniting the stars of the original – Harrison Ford (Han Solo), Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker) and Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia) – it is the most eagerly anticipated movie of the year.

And when advanced sales began for the film – more than two months before its release – all the major cinema chain websites went into meltdown.

Cineworld, which operates big screen complexes in Ashford and Rochester, said the reaction was even bigger than they expected.

A spokesman told KoS: "We're aware that some customers were unable to book tickets for Star Wars at a

small number of Cineworld cinemas. We know just how excited our customers are about getting their hands on tickets and we had the remaining tickets online shortly afterwards."

Web traffic was combined with a rush to snap up tickets for the new James Bond movie, Spectre, which opens next weekend.

The Odeon said on Monday morning when they first went on sale: "We saw massive traffic to our website as guests booked ahead for Spectre and Star Wars."

"We knew the morning would be very busy and did as much as we could to prepare. Thousands of guests have already successfully bought their tickets."

"There were some booking delays in the initial peak, but our website is now back to normal. Odeon will become a 24-hour operation for Spectre and Star Wars, with films shown throughout the night in dozens of our cinemas – so there will be lots of opportunities for our guests to book ahead and see the films as soon as they're launched."

Charlie Barker duty manager and

supervisor at the independent Westgate Cinema, Westgate-on-Sea, said: "I am sure we will do well with this film, it is probably the biggest to come out in some years."

"I can't wait to have it on our screens. There is a good chance we are going to sell out once people know we have them on sale."

Cara Pitcher, the duty manager at the independent Kavanagh Cinema in William Street, Herne Bay, told us: "We have not done pre-sales but I imagine we will be sold out for every screening."

"I expect we will be showing it for at least four weeks and I am really looking forward to it."

"It is a classic series and fans will want to know what happens in this latest sequel. There has been a lot of secrecy."

The first screenings of the Star Wars movie take place at one minute past midnight on the day of release, with many of those screenings already sold out as fans flock to be among the first



to watch what will be the seventh instalment of the space saga.

Bluewater's giant Imax 3D showings proved particularly popular.

Ironically, a site next to the shopping complex in Greenhithe had originally

been examined by movie producers as they looked at possible sites for on-location shooting for the movie. Instead, they decided to film elsewhere.

The Force Awakens is the first of the third trilogy in the Star Wars

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RETURN: The movie is set 30 years on from 1983's Return of the Jedi

saga. The original three were released between 1977 and 1983, before the much maligned prequels came out between 1999 and 2005.

The movies are the first to come out since Disney took over LucasFilms, which made the first six films in the series.



THRILLS: The Force Reawakens features some familiar faces, such as Han Solo and Chewbacca, top centre, and a host of new stars, left. It opens on December 18 with pre-viewers from two days before.

JUST WHY ALL THE FUSS?

CONTRASTING sharply with the gritty dramas which dominated the cinema screens, the original release of Star Wars back in 1977 offered escapism in it purest form.

A classic case of good versus evil, and boy rescues girl, it was an all action movie featuring special effects never seen before, a storyline which had wide appeal, and a world of fantasy which would cast such a spell over a generation they would

become addicted to the space opera for the rest of their lives.

Followed by the Empire Strikes Back - which many feel was even better - and the Return of the Jedi, the original trilogy became three of Hollywood's biggest money-makers and sparking an entire industry around the films and characters with toys and other merchandise.

When George Lucas made three

prequels, starting in 1999, many fans were left disappointed, although it did activate a whole new generation into the Star Wars world.

With Disney now in control, we can expect a relentless number of movie and TV spin-offs from the original films. The biggest trick facing the entertainment giant now is to ensure they are of a quality which keeps the legions of fans happy. And that will be no easy task.



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SAVED: Coming off the 'at risk' list are the Scenic Railway, Naval Terrace, Sheerness, Somerhill and St Mary's

Registering the highs and lows of our heritage

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ANOTHER dozen sites of important historical heritage in Kent have been listed as 'at risk' prompting calls to urgently save them.

Each year, Historic England – formerly English Heritage – does a stock take of Britain's ancient locations that are causing concern because of their various stages of disrepair.

At the same time as 12 new sites are added, quick actions from previous lists means 11 have since been rescued in Kent.

Among those is the recently opened Scenic Railway ride at Margate's Dreamland.

Also off the list is Somerhill Park near Tonbridge, and the garden and the Naval Terrace coach houses at Sheerness Dockyard.

The Heritage at Risk Register is a document vital for the planning of restoration works across the entire country. It details what is needed where and, more importantly, when.

Kent's particular concerns seem to focus around its coastline.

A spokesman for Historic England said: "There are more coastal defence sites at risk than anywhere in England with 25 on the register or almost 40 per cent of all coastal resorts at risk nationally. Once the last defence from invasion, coastal defence structures are often difficult to maintain and tricky to re-use."

Some works have already been done. The organisation said several Kent coastal defences, such as the Dymchurch Redoubt in Hythe, has undergone repairs and has now partially been

put back to use as a military training facility. It had been built to defend us from threatened Napoleonic invasion in the early 1800s.

Dr Andy Brown is planning director for Historic England in our region.

He said: "This year's register gives us the most complete sense of the state of our nation's heritage to date. We know barrows [ancient burial mounds] are more at risk than any other type of heritage nationally but we also know it's a different story depending on where you are in the country.

"The south east's coastal forts are one of the things that make our region special, and are the things most at risk. If they're lost, then part of our regional distinctiveness is lost too. Together we can safeguard our most precious places and buildings for future generations to learn from and to remember the debt we owe to our forebears."

Money is often the top concern, and in the last 12 months, Historic England has offered £446,000 in grants in the south east to help with some vital works.

A total of five conservation areas in Margate and Medway, have been added to the at risk register together with six Kent places of worship.

The good news however, is that those identified as 'at risk' before have now been saved.

At Sheerness Dockyard, the removal of the Naval Terrace coach houses is a step forward in the on-going fight to preserve the many buildings both inside and outside the operational port, that tell the story of the Royal Naval dockyard that once existed Sheppey. The Sheerness Dockyard Trust continues to work hard on the other buildings in the residential



KENT SITES ADDED TO LIST

KENT entries on the Heritage at Risk Register include everything from churches to monuments, gardens to ship wrecks.

In total there are six Grade I-listed buildings; 15 Grade II; 22 Grade I and three Grade II places of worship; 29 scheduled monuments which are buildings or structures; 24 scheduled monuments which are archaeologically important; two registered parks and gardens; 23 conservation areas; and two protected wreck sites on the list in the county.

Two conservation areas have been added in Cliftonville. These are Dalby Square, plus Athelbert Road and Athelstan Road, which are described as 'very bad' but 'improving'.

There is said to be a huge desire by the local community to conserve their local heritage and preserve its special character.

Also added this year is the Church of the Holy Trinity in Dartford where

the building is in poor condition with gutter vegetation and some damp.

Joining it is All Saints in Eastchurch; St George's in Ivychurch; St Nicholas', Leeds; St Mary's, Lenham; and St Mary's, Hadlow.

All are said to be suffering from problems with stone work, roofing, and windows.

The rest of the locations added are all conservation areas. These are Railway Street, Chatham, described as very bad, plus others in Rainham, Cliffe and Cliffe Woods, which are poor.

Historic England said: "The addition of six churches in Kent to the register reflects the commitment of local worship groups to safeguard their religious heritage. All of these churches suffer from similar problems such as leaking guttering and poor roofs."

St Mary's in High Halden, has come off the list.

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Chilham – the village with real star quality

Its Tudor square and Jacobean castle have been caught on film many times but do you know when the recordings were made? **Chris Murphy** reports

SAT at the halfway point between Ashford and Canterbury is the pretty village of Chilham – yet its reach is nationwide.

Because lured by its picture postcard square, its beautiful castle, it has attracted film crews through the years keen to use the village as the back drop to productions on the big and small screen.

From comedies to drama, movies to car shows, Chilham's tentacles have spread far and wide over the years.

And now an academic has started an in-depth analyses on how being on the screen can affect a community and is focusing her attention of Chilham.

The lecturer now wants to trace anyone who lived and worked in and around the village during filming as part of a study into TV and films shot there.

Film lecturer Dr Lavinia Brydon is based at the University of Kent's school of arts.

She said she is seeking those with specific experiences of film and TV productions in Chilham, perhaps through seeing their own home used as a location or even just collecting autographs from stars.

A special 'open day' has been organised and takes place today (Sunday) in the village hall where Dr Brydon is inviting anyone along who may have a relevant story.

That could be a memory or anecdote of filming, and she said that can be both good and bad.

She said: "Chilham residents are used to spotting their village on screen in films such as A Canterbury Tale, Top Gear and the 2009 BBC drama Emma.

"I am particularly keen to record people's anecdotes of having their home or business turned into a film



PLEA: Lecturer Dr Lavinia Brydon



set, but I would also love to see photographs, autographs, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia.

"The information gathered will provide material and information for a research project seeking to understand the impact of location filming in the village."

She told us: "I want to hear from people who were there so we get the other side of what happens during filming.

"I am keen to create a new archive of material so it can be referenced much further down the road.

"I chose Chilham because it has a

rich mix of different types of filming that has gone on there, right from Canterbury Tale all those decades ago to something like Top Gear and everything in between.

"I want to bring in the opinion of some of the younger members of the community to hear what they think of their amazing film legacy. I don't think many people realise how much has actually been shot there. So I want this to also be a celebration of the film industry in Chilham."

Gabrielle Lindemann from the Kent County Council Film Office, which helps unite production units

with locations in the county for filming, said: "Chilham is a popular film location with its remarkably preserved Tudor square offering black and white timbered buildings, stunning Jacobean castle, church, pub and school.

"The parish council and local community are always supportive and welcoming of filming, which is very important for a successful location shoot."

The Chilham on Screen event runs from noon to 6pm and is free and open to all who would like to share their experiences.



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Crime spike as police set for rush on Halloween

Trick or treaters can cause concern for many, and figures obtained by Kent on Sunday reveal Halloween can send crime reports rocketing. So is it a case of high spirits or just a fear perception?

By Andrew Hirst & Luke May
luke.may@archant.co.uk

IT MAY seem like a harmless evening of make-believe fun – with parties, pumpkins and tasty treats.

But while Halloween is often presented as a family friendly celebration, beneath the danger-free façade there lays a more troubling tale.

Police crime figures for Kent show that Halloween brings with it a significant spike in reports of crime – with 2014's figures the highest in five years.

With more people out enjoying themselves, much of the upsurge in police activity follows typical trends associated with the night-time economy.

According to a freedom of information response from Kent Police, the past five Halloweens have seen significantly more reports of nuisance behaviour, criminal damage and fireworks offences, compared with the same day of the previous weeks.

Reports of throwing objects in a public place increased from two to 93; graffiti or "non-permanent damage" increased from 15 to 93, while reports of "rowdy or nuisance gatherings in public" increased from 253 to 632 – a rise of 150 per cent.

Overall the number of reports made to police over the past five Halloweens is 13 per cent higher than when compared with the same days of the previous week.

And there are concerns with Halloween falling on Saturday night, that trend could continue.

Last Halloween, Kent police received 1,677 calls from the public – up 215 on the previous year and the highest figure for at least five years.

But despite the rise in reports to police, the number of arrests actually dips slightly over Halloween – and has tended to decline over consecutive years.

In total there have been 614 arrests over the past five Halloweens compared with 636 on the

same day of the week previously – a decrease of three per cent.

Last Halloween there were 115 arrests, which was the second lowest figure in five years, despite police receiving the most reports from public.

While overall arrests are slightly down at Halloween, certain categories of crime show a significant increase.

There have been 10 arrests under section four of the Public Order Act – causing fear of provocation or violence – over the past five Halloweens, compared with only two arrests for the same offence on the same days of the previous weeks.

Superintendent Simon Thompson said: "Many of the people out celebrating Halloween will be friendly and simply wanting to share their enjoyment with others. We understand this can be a worry to some and will be patrolling over Halloween."

As well as patrols, police are offering 'Do Not Disturb' posters for anyone wishing to be left alone during the night's festivities.

Officers are also offering advice echoed by Age UK, informing those anxious to keep their doors locked and if possible, on a chain when answering and to use a keyhole or window to see who is knocking.

Supt Thompson added: "If you don't know who's calling at your house, you don't need to open the door. To report anti-social behaviour contact Kent Police on 101, if you feel threatened, it's an emergency or a crime is in progress, call 999."

But others say the fear of trouble far outweighs the reality.

David Duncombe is chairman of the Medway Neighbourhood Watch Association. He told KoS: "You always hear the stories of people's gardens being dug up, or eggs being thrown at doors, but I haven't seen any evidence of this recently."

"I think the threat of any damage has gone, at least from my area, we might get some older



FRESH APPEAL FOR CLOWN MASK CHILD SCARERS

KENT Police has warned people to use Halloween masks and costumes responsibly following recent incidents in Kent.

Reports of suspicious activity near schools in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells involving people wearing masks deliberately scaring pupils were revealed earlier this month.

Officers are continuing to investigate, with a dedicated police team looking into concerns.

The team is also looking into a number of separate reports involving people travelling in vans and

approaching children.

Tunbridge Wells chief inspector Dave Pate said: "With Halloween approaching it's not unusual for people to be wearing fancy dress, including masks."

"However clearly there is a difference between celebrating responsibly and setting out to deliberately scare young and vulnerable people."

While police believe some of the incidents may only be the work of pranksters, officers are looking through local CCTV and have had visible patrols outside schools.

Ch Insp Pate said: "I want to make it clear that we always full investigate any report of this nature and we will continue to clamp down hard on anyone doing anything to cause alarm, distress or fear to others."

"Offenders will be arrested and can face prosecution for matters such as public order offences."

Following the reports, police are advising parents and school children to stay vigilant, and remember to stick to well lit places when travelling and avoid walking alone at night.

FUN?: Children love dressing up for the annual scare-fest, but for those who don't want people knocking on their door, you can download posters from the Kent Police website

teens that have had something to drink, but generally it is just little children after some treats."

The elderly frequently feel vulnerable on Halloween. Chriss Monks who works for nationwide charity Age UK in its Dartford office, said: "I think it frightens our clients to have so many visitors in one night, generally a lot of older people won't open the door to anyone they aren't expecting after its dark."

"Some people consider trick or treating as begging, while others have mobility issues so it's difficult for them to get up and down to answer the door all night"

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Researching the history of that which goes bump in the night

For those who like a little more substance in their ghost stories, a local historian is staging two talks over the coming weeks recounting some of the most spine-tingling tales from around the county

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS HALLOWEEN approaches, the tradition of ghost stories emerges once again – with the county packed full of the weird and wonderful tales of things that go bump in the night.

And one local historian will be giving a talk on some of Kent's most notorious spooks.

Christoph Bull is the Chalk parish historian and historical advisor to Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council.

He is set to appear at the Coach and Horses pub in Northfleet to discuss other more sinister apparitions.

He told us: "I have been interested in local history since I was at school – and since retirement in 2013 I have had more time to devote to this passion.

"The ghost stories I present have been collected from books, from interviews, from people telling me stories in passing, and I see them as part of local culture and local history.

"I have never had an experience with a ghost – ghosts keep well away from me as if I met one I would interview it about the local area as they remember it.

"My approach to the supernatural stems from wanting to understand the past and what made people think they way that they did.

"I also enjoy ghost stories that are fictional such as those by MR James who was born in Goodnestone near Canterbury in 1862 and lived until 1936.

"I wanted to use this love of ghost

stories but combine it with local history. I am not interested in the vague nonsense you often hear on so called 'ghost walks' such as 'someone died in that building and now it's haunted by a face in the window'.

"That's no good for local history at all – I want actual names, dates, what happened, witnesses – in other words my stories must be 'meaty' not vacuous.

"I cover north west Kent and have many stories but not all meet my demands so I only have time to use a few. I like to pick the best ones."

Mr Bull takes us through a few of his spooky favourites.

He said: "I start in my own parish of Chalk near Gravesend – a small place but one that contains perhaps 20 tales of the supernatural.

"Every place has these tales but few are recorded – so they get forgotten or they are so changed and modified over the generations that they become pure fantasy.

"I do another talk just on Chalk parish folklore because I have so many stories just on that one place.

"A taster for Chalk's stories would include the headless man of Chalk Church Hill and the manor house haunting.

Both of these are backed up with historical evidence which adds weight to the usual 'shaky' story base of such tales. Another story

"Ghosts keep well away from me as if I met one I would interview it about the local area as they remember it"

Christoph Bull, historian

is about a former haunted council house on the outskirts of Chalk but still within the parish. Was this a case of real poltergeist activity or was it just a hoax to get a family rehoused?

"The town of Northfleet has a superb number of ghost stories – including a haunted pub, a haunted former public library and a former haunted council house whose story was once known as 'The Northfleet Terror'.

"I have in fact just received a new story about the flesh creeping experiences of a young family who lived in a former shop premises in that town.

"Southfleet, Trotscliff, Shorne and Cobham also provide some excellent stories.

"I also like to include some dud stories to show how people can be manipulated by very human forces – and I do explain which ones are dud and which are more reliable.



TALES: Christoph Bull

"I am always interested to hear new stories which I include in future talks – providing they are good enough.

"I also do readings of fictional ghost stories – a sort of stories for bedtime but for grown-ups. Even adults enjoy being read to on a cold winter's night in a snug, if rather eerie, location.

"On the night of this talk I will begin the evening with the reading of a very short fictional story just to get everyone into the mood.

"At the end of the evening there will be time for questions and for people to share their stories if they wish to.

"In some cases I am obliged to change the names of people or keep the exact locations a secret – some people want to maintain their privacy and that is an absolute right.

"One of these is a wonderful story I was given from a house in Higham – I will probably use the story on the night but the location details will remain obscure.

"I am lacking decent stories from both Gravesend and Dartford – and although I have a story from Greenhithe I have none from Swanscombe.

"We sometimes hear stories of Pocahontas's ghost in Gravesend – but the details are so weak that I don't bother to include these."

Mr Bull has been chairman of Dartford Historical and Antiquarian Society for three years.

In 1973, he founded the Chalk Parish History Group and has been a committee member of Shorne Local History Group for over 35 years.

He said: "I worked as a professional librarian and then as a manager for Kent Library services for over 35 years and some of the stories were gathered from people I met in the places I worked.

"The talk is not illustrated for obvious reasons but the tales are a real insight into that area of human experience where folklore and history merge."

Local ghost stories and legends is on Friday, October 30, starting at 7.30pm inside the Coach and Horses public house, The Hill, Northfleet. Tickets cost £10 and include a meal. A second will take place at TJ's pub in Milton Road, Gravesend, on November 3 at 7pm. Tickets £7.50 and include a buffet.



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PROGRESS: A local plan is essential to ensure our authorities keep control of the changing face of our communities over the coming years

Perils of letting our planning be taken over by Whitehall

A number of the county's local authorities have still to complete their local plans – a vital strategic document to identify building sites and targets. Now the PM has said failure to do so could see government making the decisions

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

LOCAL plans will be taken out of the hands of councils if they don't get them organised fast enough, according to the prime minister.

The decision comes as part of the government's desire to get homes built across the country – and in Kent, that could mean decisions being made for some of our borough and district councils in Whitehall.

The local plans are the key framework for all development in an area, kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk

determining the site and size of short and medium term building levels and infrastructure projects.

But a number of councils in Kent could be under threat if they delay in getting them drawn up and agreed at town hall level.

It comes at a time when the government is taking active steps to speed up the planning process for commercial and residential development in order to kick-start the economy.

Campaigners say the government's proposals risk ignoring local issues and the views of local people in order to simply speed things up. However the government says councils have

proved a stumbling block for development in the past.

David Cameron said: "A greater Britain must mean more families having the security and stability of owning a home of their own. My government will do everything it can to help people buy a place of their own – at the heart of this is our ambition to build one million new homes by 2020.

"Many areas are doing this already – and this is great – but we need a national crusade to get homes built and everyone must play their part.

"Councils have a key role to play in **Turn to Page 33**

North & West



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Turn from Page 31

this by drawing up their own local plans for new homes by 2017. But if they fail to act, we'll work with local people to produce a plan for them."

The legislation – which is part of the Conservative government's Housing Bill – will ensure development is able to constantly take place throughout a borough or district.

Currently the planning system requires councils to ensure they have a supply of land suitable for building which can sustain growth for five years. An up to date local plan helps to ensure this supply of land is in place for building, which is one of the reasons government is eager to ensure councils have finished them.

Many councils have called for landowners to highlight land suitable for development so it can be incorporated into the local plan over recent years.

Jillian Barr is a planner with countryside campaign group the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) in Kent. The charity works within the planning system to comment on development across the county.

Ms Barr says that the new diktat from David Cameron could threaten local decision making.

Ms Barr told KoS: "The big issue with local plans is speed versus engagement with local communities. Consultation takes time.

"Our fear is that if the government takes over the completion of plans, then local people would get bypassed and there would be inadequate consultation. Local authorities need clearer guidance on the essential evidence base required for a local plan as this can cause unnecessary delays in plan preparation. We do not want local plans to be taken away from local people.

"In Kent, many of our authorities are in the process of drawing up their local plans. We have been fully engaged in this process and will continue to work to protect the countryside and ensure development is appropriate and sustainable and includes affordable housing."

In fact, most councils across Kent have a plan close to completion, if not done already. The problem though, is that if they fail to get passed at examination and have to be rewritten, it could mean government takes control.

Currently Medway Council, a unitary authority, says it is working on its plan but, right now, it doesn't have one. One reason the council gives for that is its long-running battle to include the controversial Lodge Hill site in its plan. That site will be looked at by an independent inspector at a public inquiry early next year, and until then, the council says it doesn't want to push forward too fast with the plan.

A spokesperson said: "Medway Council's draft replacement local plan is expected to be ready by early 2017 by which time a public enquiry into Lodge Hill will have taken place.

"The council will be seeking to work constructively with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the development of the plan, and we are confident they will be satisfied with the progress being made by the council."

Medway's not the only council which has been left unprotected – Ashford, Thanet, Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling and Canterbury all lack a plan right now; though they are all at different stages of progressing them. Despite that, not having a plan can lead to an increase in development pressures as developments emerge

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk



MP: Minister Greg Clark



CPRE: Jillian Barr

which look to dictate the plan itself. Canterbury City Council has just seen a 4,000 house 'garden city extension' proposed despite the local plan still being looked over by a government appointed planning inspector.

Maidstone has also seen a number of so-called speculative developments, and with no local plan in place councils are vulnerable and less able to say no to development.

Ms Barr told KoS: "We are concerned there is a danger of speculative developers getting proposals accepted in areas without a local plan because of government guidance there should be a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'. The National Planning Policy Framework says 'where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out of date' planning permission should be granted unless any adverse impacts significantly outweigh the benefits."

Despite that danger, the housebuilding industry says more houses have to be built and the government's local plan proposals should get things moving, stressing that brownfield – previously developed sites – wouldn't be enough to meet growing housing needs.

Jeff Fairburn is the chief executive of Persimmon homes, which has a number of sites scattered through the county. He says that meeting the housing crisis is likely to take a lot of effort.

Mr Fairburn said: "A strong locally led plan-based system is key to this and the measures to be enacted in the Bill to require all areas to have a plan by 2017 are welcomed. It is hoped that devolution will speed up this process in our urban areas where much of the need is focussed.

"We must continue to use land efficiently, do what we can to bring

SUSANNAH RICHTER, CAMPAIGNS AND PR MANAGER AT THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND KENT BRANCH, WRITES FOR KOS ON ANOTHER CONTENTIOUS PLANNING ISSUE – THE GREEN BELT...

SIXTY years ago the Green Belt was established to prevent urban sprawl and it remains one of the most important policies to protect our countryside and keep England the green and pleasant land we know and love.

Yet, with the current housing crisis it is under threat more than ever before, with some economists arguing for large scale development as a quick solution to the shortage of homes.

So why does it matter? Are we just trying to save a pretty view?

No. Of course it is far more than that – this land provides space to play, to relax, to breathe and get away from it all; it helps the environment and it provides vital land for food production. It has its own identity and plays an important role in England's heritage.

A large proportion of west Kent is Green Belt (91 per cent of Sevenoaks; 90 per cent Tonbridge and Malling; 77 per cent Gravesham; 61 per cent Dartford; nine per cent Chatham and Aylesford; nine per cent Rochester and Strood; two per cent Maidstone and the Weald).

Without that protection, would the villages and towns begin to merge into one, sprawling further and further into the countryside around them so you can't tell where one ends and the next begins? And where would we go to escape from the noise and fumes and crowds without the Green Belt?

brownfield sites forward but accept that they cannot alone meet the country's housing needs. Understanding and recording the capacity of brownfield land and doing all that can be done to simplify the process of gaining suitable planning approval is crucial if the most is to be made of this resource.

"Homebuilding is and can continue to be a key driver of the economy and the major builders have a responsibility to deliver. We will be working hard alongside government and local authorities to make this happen."

Tunbridge Wells MP, and communities minister, Greg Clark supports the government's aspiration to boost housebuilding.

He said: "Our homes don't just shelter us, they shape us – which is why most people want to own a home of their own. During the last five years we've brought housebuilding back from the brink, from its lowest levels since the 1920s, by reforming the planning system so we now have over 240,000 homes receiving permission.

"To maintain that momentum we all need to play our part and I'm determined to ensure that local as well as central government take the steps needed to deliver the homes this country needs."

■ **What do you think? Are you concerned with development in your area? Do you feel your local council should accelerate its local plans in order to control its own destiny? Share your views and join the debate. Email us at editorial@kos-media.co.uk or write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP.**

North & West



DEBATE: CPRE's Susannah Richter on the Green Belt

We all benefit from some tranquillity in our lives – it is proven to boost wellbeing, gives us a place to ride bikes or horses, walk or climb, and a place to de-stress.

Children need the chance to see, smell, hear and touch the beautiful landscape and wildlife that makes up the countryside and this contact with nature is known to have a positive physical, behavioural and emotional impact. They, and we,

should have the opportunity to see butterflies flitting overhead, to run or roll down hills of grass and wild flowers, to explore woodland and listen to birdsong, to paddle in rivers and streams and look for minnows. And yes we do need to protect the lovely views – they are what makes England so special.

What about food production? We import 60 per cent of our food already; our agricultural land is precious and needs our protection. With increasing global pressure from climate change and population growth, our farmland and woodlands will become more valuable in future, not less.

The land has an increasingly significant role in storing carbon, reducing greenhouse gases and preventing flooding. And by protecting the Green Belt we encourage the regeneration of previously developed or 'brown-field' land in urban areas, so important for thriving towns, cities and villages.

But most of all, any incursion into the Green Belt would be irreversible. We must be thankful there was the foresight sixty years ago to protect our countryside and stop urban sprawl for future generations. It is now our turn to ensure we protect and cherish our beautiful landscapes, nature and tranquillity so generations to come can experience the wonder and spectacle that is our countryside.

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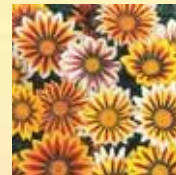
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KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4290 Box 419673

PAT, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc. Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 4298 Box 418167

CHANTELLE, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 4289 Box 410127

MARIE, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4274 Box: 405297

RACHEL late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741

ATTRACTIVE solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent 25+ for no strings discreet fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4692 Box 419701

ESSEX lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537

CHLOE, pretty brunette, 30yrs good job but lacking male, any age, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405758

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busy brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

MELANIE, tanned, toned, young 41yrs divorced with own flat, working, solvent, just missing a chap. Text only to Mailbox No: 4112160

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 481973

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTm honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827

RACHEL attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403

JAN, 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ALISON, 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

ALISON, 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

DEBORAH, 41, intelligent, brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

MALE 47, builder, seeks lady for companionship and closeness, age and looks unimportant. Text only to Mailbox no: 4924811

MATTHEW, five foot eleven, looking for a mature lady for discreet friendship and a few laughs. Dartford area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419469

45 year old male, looking for a happy intelligent friendly female for company and evenings in or out, looks or race unimportant. Text only to Mailbox no: 5063649

JOHN, 47, six foot two, well-built, handsome, non-smoker, intelligent and funny, doesn't take himself too seriously, easy to get along with, seeks attractive female, any age, for discreet, adventurous, any time fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419461

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

SUE 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTm kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right places, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373797

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

69YR old male, professional, 5ft 10ins, fit, medium build, young outlook, reliable, sincere, likes most things, seeks slim, slender, uncomplicated lady. Kent/Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418531

MALE widower, N/S, likes reading, walking, WLTm lady 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418173

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PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

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MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

SUGAR

Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

SIMON, 50, actor, loves music, films, reading, writing, loopholes, ambiguity, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, WLTm a pretty leggy female, 35 years plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418827

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

RICHARD 63, N/S, clean shaven, likes meals out, days out, classic cars, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418517

JONATHAN good looking, considerate, long curly hair, N/S, seeks tall, slim female, 30-45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418451

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for winning, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

ANDREW, 63, likes animals, walking, boot fairs, shopping, looking for someone similar living in the Maidstone/Kent area, for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419203

MALE 56, likes good conversation, seeks older lady for discreet friendly fun, 50 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419201

MALE 51, 5ft 8ins, N/S, GSOH, easygoing, seeks slim female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338269

RICHARD 59 from East Kent. WLTm genuine female 50 plus for friendship! Text only to Mailbox No: 4448765

MALE 56 yrs, GSOH, n/s, would like to meet a lady to have happy times, lots of love to give, to enjoy good times in and out. Text only to Mailbox No: 4181244

MIKE Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275

MALE, 39, tall, hardworking, 6ft 2, looking for long-term lover/older woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418877

WRITER tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535



REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

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COME dine with me. Attractive black British male 50 yrs, 6ft, medium building, working, GSOH, romantic and genuine WLTm similar female. Text only to Mailbox No: 4763687

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

MALE widower, N/S, seeks buxom lady, 50-70, likes reading, 60's music, pub quizzes and crosswords. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417905

MALE 57, slim GSOH seeks local guy for fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751943

JESSICA, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713

JESSICA, 53 yrs old, feminine, sexy, smooth body seeking gay or bi man for fun, must be non-smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418713

MALE likes CD, seeking similar male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418513

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535

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MARLOWE: The critically acclaimed King Charles III, starring Robert Powell, arrives in Canterbury this week

From Doctor Foster to the coming of the future king

From Tuesday to Saturday, Mike Bartlett's award-winning play holds court

FRESH from his success in penning the ITV drama *Doctor Foster*, theatre goers get the chance to check out playwright Mike Bartlett's acclaimed *King Charles III* this week – examining a near future where Prince Charles finally claims the throne.

Starring Robert Powell, perhaps still best known for his depiction of Jesus in the classic *Jesus of Nazareth* TV series, the play comes to Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre after a sell-out run in the West End and claiming the 2015 Olivier Award for best new play.

With the Queen dead and after a lifetime of waiting, the play explores the people underneath the crowns, the unwritten rules of our democracy, and the conscience of Britain's most famous family.

For Bartlett, the play has been

germinating for years. He explained: "Actually, I wrote a terrible play about ten years ago, in my mid-twenties, about Prince William sojourning on the island of Iona. It was a bit like his 40 days in the wilderness, thinking about what Britain is and having visions of previous kings. It was far too long and far too bad!

"But if you want to write about what Britain is, the royal family are a brilliant subject, and then I had this idea about what would Charles do when he became king and, as a man of principle, could he use the power that the Queen doesn't?

"Watching Mark Rylance do *Richard II* at the Globe, I'd suddenly understood how the form of Shakespeare's plays are a toolbox for imaginative storytelling. You can do long bits of poetry, then bottom gags and really muscular forward-footed storytell-

ing, then there can be a thought-provoking metaphor – constantly spinning those plates to keep very different audience members happy. I hate theatre that excludes people. No-one watching *King Charles III* needs to have seen Shakespeare before, or to know anything about the theatre."

Of course the royal family is in constant evolution and Bartlett admits he has to be on his toes to incorporate any changes.

He explains: "We now have a Princess Charlotte, of course. If anything happens when we're on tour, I'll keep up with that. But the play isn't trying to be über-topical. It's about the structure of the royal family, so anything they do just plays into that rather than rendering it out of date."

For many considering the play, a key question is whether it is pro or anti the monarchy.

So is Bartlett a monarchist or republican? "I was dodging that question when I started out," he says, "but I realise I can't do that. Like a lot of us, my head tells me it's dangerous and we should have elected governance. But, I suppose because of my background and national identity, I find a comfort in long-standing institutions and the royal family. In my heart I feel quite pleased they exist."

"That is clearly a big tension – about the entire concept of nationhood and Britain. But what a great place to write a play from."

"I'm definitely a political playwright, but this play doesn't take sides in any simple way, so whatever your politics are you'll not feel bashed over the head with any message, but be engaged and think about your politics, in your head, as you are watching it."

» Email us details of your event to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
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Hauntfest delivers the chills in annual spooktacular attraction

REVIEW: By Michael Adkins
michael.adkins@archant.co.uk

THE witching hour is nearing and Broadditch Farm in Gravesend has once again upped the stakes with its annual Hauntfest event to create a chilling and horrifying experience you will never forget.

Terror awaits those brave enough to tackle the five spine-tingling attractions as part of the award-winning Broadwitch Hauntfest.

What's great about Broadwitch is each year it adapts to improve attractions and create different sets so visitors who go year after year are not disappointed.

This year nervy guests will experience the Spooky Castle, award-winning Biometrix, The Edge (brand new for 2015) Thirteen and MassAcre (a new corn maze).

And if the names don't put you on edge the set designs, putrid smells and army of haunting characters who appear as if from nowhere will give you the gut-wrenching feeling you've entered your very own horror film, or a scene from The Walking Dead.



SCARES: Look out for what lurks among the maize at Broadditch Farm

There was literally nowhere to hide once we left the car and stepped into the unknown on an eerie night with a near perfect full moon. Every ghoulish character you've seen in the movies or pictured in your darkest nightmares lurks in the darkness.

We quickly scuttled into Thirteen as we tried, but failed, to escape the clutches of the waiting ghouls who accosted visitors as

they made their way through the farmyard. If you've ever see the film of the same name you will get the gist.

Don't be fooled by the modest looking set size, with a myriad of thin passages, fake doors and cramped conditions this will have you running for the door.

While not wishing to give too much away, it's fair to say every set offers a totally different experience

and is professionally staged with top actors and designs. And if the amount of piercing screams and nervous laughter signifies a job well done Broadwitch has it by the shed load.

I'll definitely be returning. This time with my eyes open, so I can appreciate the intricate work involved in staging such a great event. Hauntfest runs until November 1.

Tempest blows in for festival

THE Tempest comes to the Sarah Thorne Theatre Company in Broadstairs, as part of the Canterbury Festival this week from Friday to Sunday. Staged by the Hilderstone Players tickets cost £8.



West Heath set for Xmas

WEST Heath School, near Sevenoaks, holds its Christmas Fayre on Saturday, November 14. Formerly a public school for girls attended by Princess Diana, it is now an independent special school.

The fayre takes place between 10.30am and 2pm.

Rockney at the Leas

COCKNEY favourites Chas n Dave return to the county for another show next month at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall.

The duo will perform classics such as Down to Margate and Rabbit, on November 14.



007 show set for Selling

A PARODY and tribute to the James Bond phenomenon will be staged at Selling Village Hall, near Faversham.

Bond: An Unauthorised Parody will take place on Saturday, November 14, at 7pm as part of the Applause Rural Touring autumn season. Tickets cost £9. To book, call 01227 752301.



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Choose your Chaucer hits

THE Arden Theatre in Faversham hosts 'the original X Factor' this week as four of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales are read out with the audience declaring the winner. It runs from October 29-31.



Out of the ordinary project

OUT of the Ordinary Places is directed as communities in north Kent, encouraging them to get involved in artistic projects in their area. Projects just launched are in Iwade, Sittingbourne, Strood and the Isle of Grain. See www.idealtest.co.uk for more details on how to get involved.

Online fireworks guide

PLANNING a night out to watch the biggest and best firework displays next month? Then check out our online guide.



Our website www.kentnews.co.uk has a list of the key events across Kent.

Mark Thomas to Trespass

COMEDIAN Mark Thomas will be bringing his sell-out Edinburgh Fringe show to Whitstable's Horsebridge Arts Centre on December 4.

The comic, who has had a series of shows on BBC Radio 4 and will bring his Trespass show combining his normal skills of politics and humour. Tickets are on sale now.

Mercury Prize shortlist has a place for Slaves

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

PUNK band Slaves have been named on the shortlist of the prestigious Mercury Music Prize for debut album *Are You Satisfied*.

The duo, who hail from Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone, have spent the year winning critical plaudits and surprised many – including themselves – when their debut album shot straight into the top 10.

Now Isaac Holman and Laurie Vincent, who perform at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells in December, are up against the likes of Florence and the Machine and former Supergrass frontman Gaz Coombes in pursuit of one of the most acclaimed prizes in the music industry.

They are currently one of the favourites to lift the award which carries with it a £20,000 prize fund and publicity which normally ensures a massive sales surge for the winners.

Speaking after the nominations were revealed, Laurie Vincent said: "We didn't think we'd be in the Mercury Prize awards. That's



like a dream. That's more than a dream that every musician wants to accomplish with their album, because it's solely about the music."

To mark the occasion, the band performed on the first edition of the newly revived series of Chris Evans' TFI Friday. They performed live on stage alongside the likes of U2 and Take That.

They perform in their homecoming gig at the Assembly Hall on December 18.

There was disappointment for

Everything Everything which had been the bookmakers' favourite to win the Mercury Prize with album *Get To Heaven* before the nominations were announced.

Featuring Jeremy Pritchard, who grew up in Tunbridge Wells, the band failed to make the shortlist.

The winners of the prize will be announced at a special ceremony in London on November 20.

For tickets to Slaves in Tunbridge Wells, see www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



HIT: Winners of the prize will be unveiled next month in London



VENUE: Assembly Hall Theatre

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Exploring the culinary delights of the Irish coast

Chef and writer Rachel Allen reflects on her new book *Coast*, shedding lights on delights of Ireland

THE sun didn't always shine during Rachel Allen's recent road trip along Ireland's stunning Atlantic coast, but the chef and writer insists that was all part of the charm.

"When the weather wasn't great, it was wild and dramatic and windy. We had a couple of boat trips that did more than clear out the cobwebs," says Allen, who spent a month journeying along the rugged western terrain from Ballymaloe in County Cork to the rugged headlands of Donegal.

She visited numerous foodie locations along the route – and each stop-off forms a chapter in her new book, *Coast*, which is packed full of recipes inspired by her 'culinary odyssey'.

There was Sneem village in Kerry,

where she met black pudding-producing butchers; Galway City, to stock up on farmhouse cheese, and Rathmullan House in County Donegal, where Allen sampled some locally-brewed Kinnegar beer.

"The characters you meet along the way and their passion is just wonderful," says the author and TV presenter, who teaches at the acclaimed Ballymaloe Cookery School.

"I also learnt how to free-dive for crabs and went snorkelling, looking at different seaweeds. I was constantly learning."

Allen believes Ireland's gastronomic output in recent years has helped reverse the opinion that it houses a "nation of potato and cabbage eaters".

"Our produce is just the best in the



AUTHOR: Rachel Allen

world – when you think of our amazing seafood, our dairy, our meat, because of all our wonderful green grass and our grass-fed animals – it's just fantastic," she enthuses.

"I think it's wonderful now that so many more chefs have confidence in our produce. We're importing less all the time. It's wonderful seeing people going for local produce and really showcasing it wonderfully by doing simple things to it."

Allen took what she learned on her road trip back to share with her pupils at Ballymaloe. The Dubliner was 18 when she enrolled in a course at the famous school and met now-husband Isaac (son of renowned chef Darina Allen). "I love the teaching, and thankfully my mother-in-law Darina is wonder-

ful at letting me go off and do this. I come back full of enthusiasm," she says.

The mum-of-three, whose children range in age from six to 15, admits that despite the long days and distances involved, her journey up the Atlantic coast was "probably easier" than her usual day-to-day work.

"Normally when I finish work, I have to come home and look after the children. [On the trip] we were staying in little hotels, guest houses or bed and breakfasts, so all I had to do was eat an evening meal and collapse into bed," she adds with a laugh.

Coast: Recipes Inspired By Ireland's Wild Atlantic Coast by Rachel Allen, is published by HarperNonFiction and on sale now.

Giant book fair planned

THE county's biggest ever book fair is set to take place in Orpington's Crofton Halls at the end of next month.

More than 30 dealers bringing thousands of books will gather on Sunday, November 29, from 10am to 3pm.

It is organised by Steve Marshall, former owner of the Pantiles Bookshop in Tunbridge Wells and organiser of the popular Tunbridge Wells Book Fairs.

Get set for Screamland

DREAMLAND becomes Screamland for the remainder of the month as the pleasure park transforms itself into a Halloween attraction.

Events during the day will be suitable for small children and families and, after dark, for those aged 14 and over.

Dreamland is working with AtmosFear! Scare Entertainment, winners of multiple awards, to bring the fear factor.

Blue star takes to stage

DUNCAN James, the leader singer from pop band Blue, will appear as Tick in the latest touring production of musical *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*.

He will be in the cast for when the show arrives at Dartford's Orchard Theatre for a run of shows from April 25 to 30 next year.

His stage credits include playing Warner Huntington III in the West End production of *Legally Blonde* and Billy Flynn in *Chicago*.

Nina brings puppets in

VENTRILOQUIST Nina Conti will bring her successful show from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to Tunbridge Wells next month.

The comedian and her puppets will appear in *In Your Face* at the Assembly Hall Theatre on November 4.

The audience can expect ventriloquism, humour and plenty of improvised audience interaction.

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The Brown Jug Upchurch

Why here?

A FRIENDLY public house offering brilliant home-cooked food.

An imminent relaunch will see a new and improved extensive menu offering fresh and locally sourced ingredients.

On the menu...

Aside from a lunchtime menu and snacks, The Brown Jug offers a stellar Sunday roast. With four choices of meat and two vegetarian options, it's the perfect place to spend your Sunday.

How to book...

76 Horsham Hill, Upchurch, Sittingbourne, ME9 7AP.
Call 01634 366543.

Your guide to the best places to eat out this autumn

WITH shorter days and biting winds, now is the time to retreat to the warmth and comfort of a top Kentish restaurant.

Though it may now be autumn, Kent is still putting top quality food on the table in restaurants across the county.

The Garden of England rides itself on the top quality vegetables it grows, as well as succulent Romney Marsh lamb, and Dover sole.

Away from the kitchen locally brewed beer, cider and wine can be the perfect accompaniment to any meal, or to a true Kentish night out.

Kent gained its Garden of England title for the wide array of produce farmers, fishermen and brewers could bring to the table.

From starter to dessert and all the drinks to see you through, Kent's produce is enough to leave mouths

watering for any food lover.

Away from the table, the county can offer some of the best scenery to enjoy your meal.

Whether you're dining in the beautiful country or in one of the bustling, historic towns of this unique county, Kent's eateries can satisfy the need for any eating experience.

With opportunities to eat in any of the county's best cafes, pubs and restaurants among beautiful surroundings, dining in Kent is a chance no one can pass up, whatever the weather.

From pubs to world cuisine Kent's best restaurants and eateries have plenty to offer visitors and locals alike.

So find out about six of the best Kentish restaurants and you too can shelter from the cold in style with great food and a warm welcome.



Darjeeling Heights Rainham

Why here?

WITH delicious and plentiful food, Darjeeling Heights is a cut above the rest.

With stylish decor and attentive staff ready to make you feel special, this Indian restaurant offers exquisite dining in Rainham.

On the menu...

From mild korma to spicy vindaloo, the menu covers everything you could ever wish for.

Whether you're ordering meat, seafood or a vegetarian option, everything on the menu is cooked to perfection.

How to book...

335 High Street, Rainham, ME8 8QH
Phone: 01634 314878



The Little Albion Broadstairs

Why here?

A FRIENDLY village pub based in Broadstairs, The Little Albion offers a wide selection of ales and wine, as well as a monthly guest craft beer.

This pub not only offers a wide selection of drink, it also offers themed food nights throughout the week, catering to many different palates.

Home-cooked food from the kitchen offers something for everyone at this popular

pub, which is currently taking bookings for Christmas parties

On the menu...

With food nights ranging from Tuesday curry night to Thursday special burger night, The Little Albion offers a full array of delicious home-cooked food for everyone to enjoy.

How to book...

40 St Peter's Road, Broadstairs, CT10 2AP.
Call 01843 447033.

Waggon at Hale Chatham

Why here?

THIS well-run family pub encourages visitors to bring their families and enjoy all it has to offer.

There is something for everyone with top quality food and drink, and a mini-farm outside.

On the menu...

The home-cooked menu covers everything from light bites to the traditional Sunday roast.

The kitchen even offers its very own 'Waggon burger' made with angus scotch beef

How to book...

179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP.
Call 01634 400800.



Kits Coty Brasserie Blue Bell Hill

Why here?

SITUATED on Blue Bell Hill, Kits Coty is a family-run restaurant combining picturesque views with a complete dining experience.

A 45-seat private dining room is popular for family events and can even be hired for weddings. Having spent 30 years under the same management, Kits Coty also puts on music nights, with performances from tribute acts for ABBA and Michael Buble, all alongside beautiful

views of the Weald. For information on Christmas and live events, visit kitscoty.co.uk

On the menu...

Offering a contemporary menu, with produce from Kent and an extensive wine list from across the world, dining at Kits Coty offers a full menu catering to vegetarians and vegans as well.

How to book...

15 Old Chatham Road, Blue Bell Hill, ME20 7EZ
Call 01634 684445.



Jade Garden Chatham

Why here?

PRIDING itself on the assistance of its customers by choosing new dishes to accompany old favourites, this traditional Chinese restaurant has over 50 years of history and offers the finest Chinese cuisine.

On the menu...

The Chatham-based eatery focuses on delivering elaborate Cantonese cuisine.

Offering diners a new food experience, the restaurant also produces top quality Szechuan and Peking dishes featured on its menu.

How to book...

43 High Street, Chatham, ME4 4EN,
Call 01634 841451.

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Tropical resort with licence to thrill

TRAVEL REVIEW: Seychelles

by Sam Wylie-Harris

THERE'S no time for hesitation as I rush towards the waiting helicopter, clinging tightly to my panama hat as the spinning blades whip up a breeze.

Once safely buckled into my leather seat, we soar above Mahe, the largest island in the Seychelles group, and head across the shimmering Indian Ocean to our chosen target, Silhouette Island.

A 20-minute helicopter ride, 20km northwest of Mahe, it's just the sort of place James Bond might choose to moor up his power boat in between secret missions.

Author Ian Fleming holidayed in the Seychelles in 1958, and even used the sun-splashed paradise as a source of inspiration for some of his famous 007 novels.

Fleming based himself at the Northolme hotel on Mahe, a secluded hideaway on the northwest coast with picturesque views of Beau Valon Bay and Silhouette Island.

Originally built by an eccentric, retired English colonel, the Northolme has been revamped several times and is now a boutique resort. Each villa is hidden in the midst of tropical greenery and reflects the Creole architecture of the island.

The Seychelles is a sanctuary for rare flora, including the impressive cannonball tree, which shades paths to the suites.

Its warm, tropical waters are home to more than 400 species of reef fish and 300 species of coral. From the tranquillity of our sun deck, I spy a hawksbill turtle not far from the shore, where waves lap the granite rocks.

As I wade into the calm, azure sea, I don't need a snorkel to see the green



INSPIRING: Ian Fleming, who lived in Kent, enjoyed holidaying in the Seychelles and used it to influence his work

parrot fish, schools of reef fish, a baby reef shark and a curious stingray that seems drawn to my lily white legs.

Keen to explore more, we take a kayak out for a paddle across the cove and as we skirt the edge of the coral-fringed granite boulders jutting out from the sea, we spot armies of red crabs basking in the midday sun.

Eager to discover more about the history of the Seychelles, we temporarily leave our beach idyll behind

and take a tour of Victoria, the capital of the Seychelles located on Mahe.

The smallest capital in the world – I count only two sets of traffic lights – it was named after Queen Victoria during British colonial rule.

There are still plenty of nods to those years, including the Victoria clock tower in the centre of town. Inspired by Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, it was shipped from London by mail steam ship and erect-

ed in her honour in 1903. Originally black, it was painted silver to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee and is still as shiny as a bullet.

Victoria is a bustling port and the Sir Selwyn Selwyn Clarke Market is one of the town's most colourful attractions. Saturday is the busiest day, but we manage to jostle our way into the fishmongers' corner at the market entrance.

Locals haggle for freshly caught

tuna, octopus and red snapper, which are displayed in all their freshly caught glory, while barefoot fishermen hose down their filleting stations.

We head to the dry foods section, where bundles of cinnamon sticks, nuggets of ginger and sweet smelling bails of lemongrass are for sale.

Overhead, a kaleidoscope of kaffians and sarongs hanging from the first floor balcony souvenir shops entices me to head upstairs to delve into a treasure box of treats.

I'd heard that in the 17th century, pirates would use the Seychelles as a base and many believe there are still hoards of treasure hidden on the islands, including Silhouette, our final destination.

Courtesy of our resort, Labriz, we enjoy a private sunset cruise around the island. As we slice through the waves, I sip champagne with my co-star Giles, whose tastes are as refined as Bond's. We marvel at the sheer beauty and scale of the granite rock formations that emerge from the sea.

More than fifty years after Fleming came here on holiday, the Seychelles is still a place of beauty, mystery and intrigue – the perfect hideaway for a Bond girl and their secret agent.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



Paper Planes (U, 97 mins) Drama/romance

CHEESIER than a lump of mature cheddar, Paper Planes is a life-affirming drama about a grief-stricken boy, who heals his family's wounds with his gift for fashioning airborne missiles out of A4.

Director Robert Connolly and

co-writer Steve Worland have evidently been watching Billy Elliot on repeat, which would explain why their pint-sized hero describes folding paper as an escape from reality in similar terms to the miner's son, who dreamt of becoming a ballet dancer.

Nothing is understated in Connolly and Worland's old-fashioned screenplay; every emotion is loudly verbalised, bullies learn valuable lessons about humility and self-absorbed parents are brought to their senses by their precocious off-spring.

The Australian cast, including lead actor Ed Oxenbould hammer home the key tenets of this family-oriented adventure with gusto.

The Last Witch Hunter (12a, 106 mins) Fantasy

VIN Diesel trades in the souped-up motors of the Fast & Furious

franchise for dark magic in this otherworldly fantasy.

Mighty warrior Kaulder (Diesel) belongs to a group called the Axe and the Cross, which targets witches who wreak havoc on the world.

He vanquishes the Witch Queen (Julie Engelbrecht), thereby ending the crones' reign of terror, but the taste of victory is soured when Kaulder is cursed with immortality. He lives on while everyone he loves dies. For centuries, Kaulder is cursed to walk the earth, primed to destroy the forces of evil including the powerful denizens of the dark that secretly live in our midst.

Unexpectedly, the Witch Queen is revived and Kaulder realises he will need reinforcements.

Maya The Bee (U, 88 mins)

BASED on the German children's book by Waldemar Bonsels, Maya



The Bee is a cutesy and inoffensive romp for preschoolers, who have grown up with Dora The Explorer and her animated kin.

Alexs Stadermann's film - a co-production between Australia, Germany and Belgium - has a lively vocal cast and a palette of retina-searing primary colours that should prevent parents buzzing off for a cheeky power nap.

The quality of the animation is basic and the script follows a linear path as the eponymous protagonist shows her winged brethren that different species can live in harmony if they just open their hearts to each other.

Sentimentality, as sticky and sweet as the honey gathered by Maya's swarm, drips from every frame.

TRAVEL FACTS

Sam Wylie-Harris was a guest of Etihad Holidays (0844 557 0646; www.etihadholidays.co.uk) who offers four nights with breakfast at Hilton Labriz Resort Seychelles (King Garden Villa) and four nights with breakfast at Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort & Spa (King Hillside Villa) from £1,919pp (two sharing). Includes flights with Etihad Airways from London.

AS THE days get shorter and duller, the UK gets less and less sunlight – which means its residents get less and less of the sunshine vitamin D.

And not getting enough of this essential vitamin can lead to health problems, including the bone-deformity disease rickets, which is on the rise in UK children.

During the course of the last week and ending today, it has been National Vitamin D Awareness Week – which is hoping to alter misconceptions about how easy it is to get the necessary amount of vitamin D. Timed to coincide with the clocks going back and days getting shorter, the week aims to increase understanding of the health issues associated with declining levels of vitamin D.

The vitamin helps keep bones and teeth healthy by controlling the amount of calcium and phosphate in the body, and aids the maintenance of a robust immune system. Plus, a new Danish study has suggested that higher exposure to sunlight in the teenage years may delay the onset of multiple sclerosis.

Dr Sarah Brewer, a former GP and now a registered nutritionist and author, explains that it's increasingly recognised that getting the right amount of vitamin D has a number of health benefits.

"Vitamin D was once thought to be all about calcium and bone health," she says, "but it's now recognised as having effects all over the body

through its hormone action and ability to interact with DNA."

Most people should be able to get all the vitamin D they need from a healthy balanced diet and summer sun, as vitamin D is produced naturally when the skin is exposed to UVB radiation from the sun. However, there's not enough sunlight at the right wavelength between October

and April in the UK for people to produce the vitamin under their skin.

Partly because of this, and the fact that children play outside less than they used to, the number of children suffering from vitamin D deficiency tripled in the four years up to last year, and in England alone, around a sixth of children are thought to have low vitamin D levels.

In children, whose bones are growing, vitamin D deficiency can cause rickets, which makes the bones soft and weak and can lead to deformities. The disease was rife in the Victorian era and had been virtually wiped out, but cases have risen five-fold in the past 15 years.

"Rickets is increasing, and less time spent outdoors is only one fac-

tor," explains Dr Brewer.

"While kids can make some vitamin D in their skin, this only occurs when the UV index is 3 or more. We make no vitamin D during autumn and winter in the UK, and during summer on cloudy days.

"And even when the sun's shining, not everyone produces vitamin D efficiently."

ALTERNATIVE: As the days get shorter we get less and less Vitamin D

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Surely grammar era is at an end?

FURTHER to your article on academies (KoS, last week) the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party prompts a wider debate about education in Kent. This debate needs to focus on evidence and values of fairness and not fantasies of halcyon days of imagined glory.

The evidence is clear – grammar schools have no role in Kent, nor any other part of the country. Research continually indicates that grammar schools, free schools, non-selectives and academies are all equally as effective. What matters is that teachers are given the time and resources to develop an environment where learners can engage in the tricky process of education, without the fear of continual testing and the social division that goes with it.

Education is not simply the individual pursuit of 'excellence' that pits pupil against pupil (or even teacher against teacher and school against school). Education is also a social activity from which we can all gain. If we respect all the young people in Kent then the heinous process of selection at 11 must be ended.

We need an education service that is fit for purpose and one that includes all and promotes social inclusion.

Grammar schools never have, nor ever will, bring this about. There are no simple solutions and it is childish folly to look for them. But allowing children to start life from a level playing field – one that views the inherent ability of each individual to be more important than the socio-economic status of their parents – must be a good place to start.

I trust Jeremy Corbyn and the values that he holds more than those of the 'centre right' to bring this about.

Alan Bainbridge,
Whitstable

Charging for a selective system

WHY all the huff and puff about grammar schools?

What are universities? They are schools for older children and adults that have excelled at school with high grades.

What are grammar schools? They are schools for children that have excelled at school with high grades. Universities and the like can expand and have as many sites as they wish.

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Scrap KCC and our councils to save cash

ALBEIT the largest with a population of some 1.46million, Kent is just one of the 27 remaining non-metropolitan (or shire) counties in England, with a second tier of district councils – some 12 in all.

The easiest way to overcome Kent County Council's £80m shortfall is for the council to be abolished, along with the 12 district councils, as has happened in most of England and all of both Wales and Scotland.

They could then be replaced with three unitary authorities: One for east Kent, population 505,000 comprising of Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Shepway; one for mid Kent, population 425,000, covering Maidstone, Swale, Ashford, Tonbridge & Malling (east of the Medway) and Tunbridge Wells (east of the B2079), thus eliminating odd boundaries as existing at present; and west Kent,

population 535,000, covering Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks plus the major parts of Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells.

A whole large level of administration will be swept away, with just one authority responsible for 'everything', which is far from the case at present.

Medway was separated from Kent some 20 years ago. It is now a thriving unitary authority with a lower council tax than, I believe, any of the current 12 districts within Kent, and, of course, no precept to pay to a county council.

Obviously, the police and fire and rescue service would remain as of present, as is the case generally elsewhere, or on an agency basis. For ceremonial purposes, Kent could remain as it always has, with a single Lord Lieutenant, unless Her Majesty decides otherwise.

Rodney Wolfe Coe
Ashford

so why not grammar schools?

How about introducing grammar schools with an annual fee similar to university fees?

John Smith,
via email

Focus now on primary schools

THE long-awaited approval of a Sevenoaks grammar school is most welcome. But local and national Conservatives and other politicians must do more to help build new

schools for pupils of all ages and social backgrounds across Kent.

There remains a severe under-provision of primary school places in Sevenoaks and surrounding villages, and with poor planning for population growth and new housing estates this shortage can only get worse.

Also Kent Conservative county councillors should urgently restore the travel to school costs and bus services whose removal has badly affected many, resulting in severe financial hardship.

This could be compounded by proposed cuts in working tax credits

for families by chancellor George Osborne, against their election manifesto promises, and still further KCC Tory cuts in social services.

Dr Alan Bullion,
Sevenoaks

Manston needs to move on

HAVING read your article on Manston (KoS, last week) I felt that I had to comment.

The future of the site has been laid out by the owners in some detail. The pressure group who want the 800-acre site handed over to an American real estate company do not seem to be able to look at the whole picture. They seem to have the mind set of airport at any cost.

Many people, myself included, are hoping for the redevelopment of the site so that it can be enjoyed by the majority of Thanet residents. I, for one, do not want to see this prime development site being handed over to an organisation who have no interest in the residents, only their own profit margin.

Thanet council do not have a good track record of good business decisions in the transportation industry, Ramsgate port being a prime example. So I am saying leave the site with the current owners for redevelopment, build some much needed affordable housing there and keep the antiquated cargo planes that no-one else would allow to land away from Thanet.

Peter Newbery,
via email

Perhaps VW was onto something

LAST week Ray Duff (KoS, letters) draws attention to the health hazards arising from diesel vehicle emissions.

In the topsy turvy world of the EU regulation strange things happen. VW design their vehicles so that when there are no inputs from the driver the software changes the engine management system to reduce pollution to pass the stricter emissions test. This is of course cheating the tests.

Now consider this, when a vehicle is standing still in a queue in a traffic queue there are no inputs from the driver. So one of the offending VWs is creating less pollution! Surely VW and all other manufacturers should be told to implement this type of change to all of their vehicles.

Martin Stoneham,
West Kingsdown

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Alpacas between Hawkhurst and Cranbrook

by **John Hunt from Cranbrook**

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Middle East charm of the Kadjar

UPDATE: Renault's new Kadjar looks classy, desirable and well-priced - sister brand Nissan's Qashqai may need to look out...

WHAT'S in a name? Quite a lot in the case of the new Kadjar SUV from Renault. The French marque claims the first syllable chimes with quad – highlighting the car's 4x4 option – while the second echoes the French words 'agile' and jaillir – the latter means to shoot forth.

But there's also a suspicion that Renault, keen to enjoy some of sister brand Nissan's success with the excellent Qashqai crossover cum SUV, has also been leafing through Middle East history.

The Qashqai, you might remember, is not something you utter when you sneeze but the name of a desert tribe, while Kadjars – or more correctly written as Qajars – were a dynasty of Persian Shahs, one of whom imported the first two cars ever seen in Persia/Iran. They were Renaults.

But if Renault appears to be pinching Nissan's good ideas, even down to sourcing a name, let's remember that the Qashqai's success owes much to Renault powertrains.

And the Kadjar is an eye-catcher, following nicely in the flowing wake of the brand's smaller Captur crossover.

Priced from £17,995, the newly-launched Kadjar sells in front-wheel drive or 4x4, with a choice of two diesels or one turbocharged petrol unit.



Generous standard kit includes cruise control, speed limiter, hill start assist, six airbags, and seat belts with load limiters and pre-tensioners in the front.

There is also a significant amount of Captur-like customisation available through add-on spec packs or individual features such as side running boards, wheel arch extensions,

a retractable tow bar - released from within the boot - and illuminated lower side mouldings.

Choosing an engine could be tough though: ranging as it does from the light yet punchy entry level 130bhp 1.2-litre turbo petrol unit, through the stalwart 110bhp 1.5-litre (from £19,895) diesel, up to the 130bhp 1.6-litre diesel (from £22,795).

North & West

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Representative Example	
60 Monthly Payments	£179.00
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*WRX STI is covered by a 3 Year/60,000 mile (whichever is sooner), Manufacturer's Warranty (bumper to bumper, excluding clutch driven plate) and an Extended Warranty (applies to powertrain only) provided by the importer. OTR price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee. Vehicle shown WRX STI 2.5i, manufacturer's OTR price £29,495.00 with optional special paint finish. Without special paint finish £28,995.00. OTR price correct at time of print.

Hyundai overcomes its initial i20 blip

Korean brand's supermini finally matches up to its impressive sister models – and the UK's most competitive market sector, writes **Steve Loader...**

HYUNDAI has boosted its market share and taken giant steps with each new model for nearly ten years now, but its first i20 supermini was distinctly underwhelming.

It was a blip though. The second generation i20 (from £10,995) arrived earlier this year to underline what I said at the top: it's another big stride in terms of style, comfort, quality, dynamics and powertrains.

Rather than blur the differences between five and three-door versions, Hyundai also chose to follow the increasing trend towards making the latter more of a sporting coupe, delivering glamour to the range as a whole.

But we tested the bigger-selling five-door format, which is spacious inside for all, yet also comes with one of the biggest boots in class, complete with secret compartment below the floor yet above the space saver spare wheel.

Fit and finish is, as now expected with Hyundai, exemplary though the Korean brand does seem to favour durability above pleasing the eye or touch, so the dashboard is rather bland.

But there's no criticism of the car's



refinement and composure in a class where it can be a challenge; the i20 is quiet and rarely caught out by the vagaries of UK road surfaces.

And this serenity was clear even in what may be the least refined of all the engine options: the junior diesel unit fitted to the test car, a new 74bhp 1.1-litre three-cylinder.

The thrum of the uneven layout is all too obvious if you drive it heavy-footed, but it settles down when cruising to deliver its big positive – economy. I managed 60+mpg without really trying, though the official combined 70.6mpg is unlikely in the real world.



However, prices for this unit start at £12,745, a £1,750 premium over the equivalent 1.2-litre petrol with the same output, so you would need to cover a lot of miles to claw that cash back with the diesel's higher fuel economy.

Need more power? There's also a 99bhp 1.4 litre petrol and 90bhp

Hyundai i20 SE 1.1 CRDi

Price:	from £14,525
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford Fiesta

1.4-litre diesel.

To be fair though, I can't see many buyers chasing the i20 as a sporty option, though they might check out the racier coupe version (from £13,025).

On the other hand, there's nothing pedestrian about the way the i20 handles: it has a good level of grip, decent body control on the bends and, but for a slight lack of feel to the steering, would be a real driver pleaser.

All the controls are well organised and arranged too, with easy access to sockets. Our car was also fitted with a dashboard top smartphone cradle/charger: surely the way things will go as more of us rely on our phone apps for maps and destinations, music and communications?

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall New Corsa range: Urban: 36.2 (7.8) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 57.6 (4.9) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 47.1 (6.0) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 140 - 85g/km.#

Personal contract hire offer on New Corsa Limited Edition 1.2i 70PS in Summit White and New Corsa Energy 1.2i 70PS (a/c) 5dr in Shiny Rock on orders received between 8 October and 15 December 2015, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures for New Corsa Limited Edition based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1,790, then 35 monthly rentals of £179. Excess annual miles over contracted mileage of 24,000 over 36 months charged at 6.64 ppm. Figures for New Corsa Energy based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1,908, then 35 monthly rentals of £159. Excess annual miles over contracted mileage of 24,000 over 36 months charged at 6.64 ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and Ts&Cs contact your local Retailer. You will not own the car. ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. #First year insurance offer available on New Corsa Limited Edition only. All drivers must have held a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. All policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific Ts&Cs apply. Drivers aged 18-20 will make a contribution of £99 to their premium and must agree to the fitting of a Telematics box to the car, every 3 months, your contribution will be reviewed and if you drive well, we will return part of this to you. The policy may be cancelled for excessive speeding or consistently poor driving. Only available through ingenie. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. #MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results. Correct at time of going to press.

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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/MPG) & CO₂ emissions (g/km): Highest: Citroën Grand C4 Picasso THP 165 S&S EAT6 auto Exclusive+ 7.5/37.7, 4.9/57.6, 5.8/48.7, 134. Lowest: Citroën C4 New Range BlueHDi 100 S&S manual 3.7/76.3, 3.1/91.1, 3.3/85.6, 86. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.

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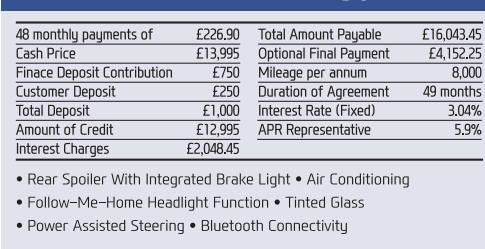
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Customer Deposit	£250	Duration of Agreement	49 months
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the All-New Renault KADJAR Dynamique Nav TCe 130 are: urban 41.5 (6.8); extra-urban 57.7 (4.9); combined 50.4 (5.6). The official CO₂ emissions are 126g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

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REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE KADJAR Dynamique Nav TCe 130

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Commercial A buyer's guide VEHICLES

Van sales carry on upwards

WHILE the UK's positive economic growth continues to see-saw, there's no doubt about the upward trend in van registrations.

Volumes for September were nearly 20 per cent up on the same month last year and the trend so far in 2015 sits at 17.4 per cent – it could be another bumper year for registrations.

It's a far cry from the dark days after the recession hit in 2007, when registrations for vans – oiling the wheels of British business, construction and manufacturing – plunged as operators sought desperately for economies, retaining and punishing vehicles by clocking up more miles than they would normally.

However, this practice was also bound to accelerate recovery by creating a used van market full of tired stock, making it attractive for increasingly more confident owners and operators to re-equip with a new vehicle.

The trend continues and Mike Hawes, chief executive of motor industry mouthpiece, the SMMT, said: "The van market – buoyed by robust business confidence and the ongoing trend towards online deliveries – shows no sign of slowing."

■ Read on for tips on how to choose your next workhorse.



DELIVERY POWER: Mercedes-Benz' van flagship, the Sprinter



DRIVING UPWARDS: vans like the Renault Trafic, Fiat Fiorino and Mercedes-Benz Citan are underpinning a growing UK economy

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Van Buying Tips...

- **Size it up** – gauging van space and weight needs is crucial for small or start-up businesses, so opt for one that can grow with your needs. Conversely, a bigger and under-used van could cripple a fledgling business with higher leasing and operating costs.
- **Access** – do you need one or two sliding doors, and will you have to unload in cramped spaces, meaning that twin rear doors will be better than a tailgate?
- **Powertrain** – you'll probably want a diesel, though electric might be good for your firm's image and operating costs if you cover few miles. Opt for an automatic gearbox too for urban or stop-start work. But if you cannot your van and use all of its weight capacity, consider a bigger engine.
- **Do your research** – don't buy a brand just because

you like its cars; the van business is different. And check which models win awards: van media tend to be hard-nosed about operating costs, convenience and other aspects – awards will be well earned

● **Take a test drive** – you or a staff member will spend lots of time in the van, so it must work well for the regular driver and be easy to handle and park.

● **Does it look good?** – are appearances important to the company image or, the bottom line, what will the neighbours or 'er indoors think when it's parked outside your house?

● **New or used?** – a new van is better for your business image, and there is the promise of greater reliability and no need for an MOT for three years, but it costs more to acquire. A good compromise is to buy a smart used van with warranty from a main dealer though, as we said earlier in this supplement: quality used vans are still in short supply.



CHECK 'EM OUT: the Fiat Doblo, Renault Kangoo and Mercedes-Benz Vito



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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat Professional range in mpg (l/100km): Urban from 24.4 (11.6) – 55.4 (5.1); Extra Urban from 38.2 (7.4) – 74.3 (3.8); Combined from 31.7 (8.9) – 65.7 (4.3) CO2 emissions 90 – 222 g/km. Fuel consumption figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption. CO2 figures are for comparative purposes in accordance with the VCA van CO2 & fuel consumption database. Images for illustration purposes only. Rentals are subject to VAT at statutory rate. Offers are for business users only, subject to availability and status and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Licenced credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE. Offers valid on vehicles registered before 31st December 2015.

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SENIOR REPORTER

We are on the look out for a talented senior reporter to join our team working across Kent on Sunday, the Kentish Times series and our associated websites.

You must possess a real flair for the written word, be full of ideas, and just as comfortable writing a 1,500-word indepth news analysis piece as you are handling a breaking news story. The successful candidate should also have proven experience on local newspapers, and have NCE qualifications or equivalent experience.

You must be prepared to work hard and hit our demanding deadlines. This is not a role for the faint-hearted.

In exchange, you'll work for the award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper, where the focus is firmly on quality journalism, in addition to the more traditional local newspaper titles, the Bromley Times, Bexley Times and The Reporter.

These opportunities don't come around often.

In exchange we offer a competitive salary, pension scheme, five weeks' annual leave and a host of other voluntary benefits.

You will be based in our office in Ashford. It is essential you have a car and hold a full driver's licence.

Please send your completed application form quoting the reference number: RL/EDT575/SRKOS/Oct15 to londonrecruitment@archant.co.uk along with your CV and a covering letter explaining why you are suitable for the role and what you could bring to our news operation.

Closing date for completed applications is Friday 30th October 2015.

Please note that if you have not been invited in for an interview within three weeks of the closing date, then you can assume on this occasion that your application has been unsuccessful.

TRAINEE REPORTER

A golden opportunity has arisen to join our hard-working news team to work across our range of titles, including Kent on Sunday, the Kentish Times series and their associated websites.

We are seeking someone with a desperate desire to shine as an essential part of our news gathering team, with an appetite for getting the very best stories, an ability to come up with non-stop ideas, and a need to prove themselves in this highly competitive industry.

The right candidate will be able to turn around crisp, informative and entertaining copy on everything from hard-hitting crime stories to in-depth features.

We'll provide all the support and encouragement to develop your talents, paving the way for you to quickly rise up the ranks.

You'll need to be able to perform under pressure, prioritise workloads, be an excellent communicator both verbally and with the written word, and be a team player.

We would expect you to have your NCTJ preliminary certificate, have undertaken work experience placements and be hungry to prove yourself.

These opportunities don't come around often. In exchange we offer a competitive salary, pension scheme, five weeks' annual leave and a host of other voluntary benefits. You will be based in our office in Ashford. It is essential you have a car and hold a full driver's licence.

Please send your completed application form quoting the reference number: RL/EDT575/TKOS/Oct15 to londonrecruitment@archant.co.uk along with a covering letter explaining why you are suitable for the role and what you could bring to our news operation.

Closing date for completed applications is Friday 30th October 2015.

Please note that if you have not been invited in for an interview within three weeks of the closing date, then you can assume on this occasion that your application has been unsuccessful.



To find out more:
www.archant.co.uk/vacancies



Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care..

Fantastic opportunities have arisen to join our Reception and Business Office teams.

As a highly motivated and professional individual you will have exceptional Customer Service skills and a proven track record of delivering service beyond expectations. Your ability to remain focused and calm under pressure will ensure the smooth day to day running of your business area. We are looking for real team players who are able to communicate effectively and understand that attention to detail is key within the following roles.

Self-employed Housekeeper – Margate

Various Hours Closing date: 06/11/2015

Rate: £6.97 per hour

Experience and Qualifications:

- To carry out any cleaning task within the hospital and ensure all required documentation is fully completed
- Ensure high standards of cleanliness, hygiene and appearance are constantly maintained throughout the hospital.

Flexible working patterns to meet service needs which will include weekend work.

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Nicola Jenkinson, Customer Service Manager on 01843 234252

For a job description and application form please contact:

Justine Whittle, HR Assistant Tel: 01304 222684

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer. These positions are subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



Swale Academies Trust



Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Teaching Assistant

27.08 hours per week, worked over 5 days, term time only

Salary £13,647 - £16,633 (pro rata)

(equal to £8,237 to £10,039 pa depending on experience)

A post has become available to support pupils who have various difficulties in mainstream classes, a particular interest in the areas of mathematics, science or humanities would be an advantage.

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis. Candidates would be expected to have good literacy and numeracy skills, and, as part of the interview, may be asked to demonstrate their skills in supporting pupils.

Lesson Supervisor

Term time only, 33.3 hours, 5 days a week

Salary starting at £17,475 - £19,222 pa (pro-rata)

(equal to £13,024- £14,326 pa depending on experience)

This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence, excellent communication skills and the ability to adapt quickly to a varied and constantly changing routine.

Weekend Stock-keeper

Required as soon as possible

6 hours per week

Swale Academies Trust Support Staff Pay Scheme Band 2 (equivalent to £2,213 - £2,379 per annum)

24 days paid holiday, pro rata to hours worked

Applications are invited for the post of weekend stock-keeper on the School Farm.

Hours of work, 6 hours per weekend, 1 ½ hours morning and afternoon, Saturday and Sunday. This role post could also be shared between two staff working alternate weekends. Applicants should ideally have experience of working with farm animals, and be confident around livestock, including cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. Duties will include all aspects of animal welfare, general farm management and necessary medical care.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk).

Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Applicants should include a letter of application detailing how they meet the requirements of the person specification.

Closing date: Wednesday 4 November 2015 at noon.

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461 - Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA - Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

STOPPING UP OF LAND AT LONGPORT CARPARK CANTERBURY

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Canterbury Magistrates' Court on 15 December 2015 at 10:00 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Longport Carpark Canterbury as Edged Red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform David McKnight by post to Legal Services, The Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, or by email to david.mcknight@kent.gov.uk before 5 December 2015 quoting reference number LS/21/109215/608.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact David McKnight using the contact details shown above.

JOHN BURR
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS
AND TRANSPORTATION



The Westlands School Teaching School Alliance

Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College, Meopham School,
The North School, Pent Valley School,
Westlands Primary School, Regis Manor Primary School,
South Borough Primary School, Beaver Green Primary School,
Istead Rise Primary School and Rockmount Primary School

School Direct Teacher Training for the 2016/17 Academic Year

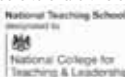
Swale Academies Trust, working in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, invites high quality graduates interested in a career in teaching to consider the School Direct Training Programme 2016/17. We have places available under both School Direct training routes, some salaried and some which may be eligible for a training bursary or scholarship, subject to status.

Information about training and the application process is available on our website:
www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk

Swale Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality teacher training within a friendly and supportive environment. Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate time. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals. Westlands School, the lead training school, is an outstanding school as recognised by Ofsted and has been awarded Teaching School status.

For preliminary enquiries please email ef@westlands.kent.sch.uk or telephone 07496 972 623.

Only applications made through UCAS Teacher Training, **www.ucas.com/teacher-training**, will be accepted. Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff are subject to an enhanced DBS check.



Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732 Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

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IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

Brown: Margate now on the rise

Boss Terry Brown believes his side have finally turned a corner



MARGATE: The club's home ground, Hartsdown Park and manager Terry Brown, inset

Football

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

MARGATE boss Terry Brown says his side are on the up after an "abysmal" start to the season.

The Gate were promoted from the Isthmian League via the play-offs last season, and have found adjusting to life in the National League South a difficult task, sitting just above the relegation zone in 17th after 13 games.

Only rock-bottom Basingstoke Town have won fewer games than Margate's total of two, and with just 11 goals to their name, Brown's side are also the third lowest scorers in the division.

Their start has been particularly

frustrating when taking into account the blistering form of by Kent rivals Ebbsfleet United, who sit eight points clear at the top, and Maidstone United, who are fourth, despite also being promoted only last season.

Margate and Maidstone are both in FA Cup fourth qualifying round action this weekend, looking to secure a place in the draw for the first round proper, where they will be joined by teams from League One and League Two, including local rivals Gillingham, and Brown feels the competition has helped provide a little respite from their gruelling domestic campaign.

He told KoS: "I love the FA Cup, and it gives us a change of scenery from the league where we've had a very slow start.

"We really struggled to come to terms with the league at the beginning but our run in the cup has been

the catalyst for some much better performances.

"Against Potters Bar Town we won 5-1 and played very well, likewise against Truro City we won 4-1 and were excellent."

Margate's cup run has coincided with a real upturn in form in the league, with the club only losing one of their last four games, after four consecutive league defeats prior to that, but Brown is keen to arrest his side's disappointing displays at Hartsdown Park.

He said: "Our home form has been abysmal, there's no doubt about that, but you can see we're improving quite quickly.

"There's been a noticeable difference in our performances since the Truro game.

"That was a real turning point for us, and hopefully we can now begin to climb up the table."

Welterweight wins again with sharp display

UNBEATEN welterweight prospect George Hennon, from Snodland, doubled his win tally with a points victory over Ali Wyatt at the Grays Civic Hall in Essex last weekend.

The former English and European kick-boxing champion, 21, defeated the 32-year-old travelling opponent from Torquay 39-37.

He said: "I was really pleased with my performance. I didn't really waste much, I really can't see the round that I lost."

The former Holmesdale Technology College student's debut in June this year was a calm, composed performance, triumphing over veteran Matt Seawright on points over six two-minute rounds.

This time, Hennon promised his fans more action and certainly delivered on that.



UNBEATEN: Snodland boxer George Hennon in action

Clearly learning from his experienced coaches Johnny and Frank Greaves, Hennon wasted very few

punches and got some good body shots in during the opening round.

Confident and composed, Hennon began to drop his hands low in round two, before the home fighter connected a couple of good one-tuos to start the penultimate round with Wyatt's big, swinging right hands telegraphed and Hennon avoided them with ease.

The final round provided more action with both boxers giving their all in the final 180 seconds, before Hennon secured a 39-37 win.

"There's loads I've got to work on but from the previous fight, it was much better," he said.

"In the fourth round I thought I'd step it up a bit, there were a couple of right hands over the top I thought I hurt him with and a couple of body shots as well."

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Jamie Weir on 01233 653481

Contract extension for spinner Adam Riley

KENT spinner Adam Riley has signed a contract extension.

The Sidcup-born bowler has committed his future to the club after taking 143 wickets in 100 first-team appearances since his debut in 2011.

He represented England Lions last winter in South Africa and is aiming to win a regular place in the line-up.

Opportunities for spinners were limited in 2015 with more seamer-friendly pitches but Riley took four wickets against the touring Australians and another four scalps in a record win against Glamorgan in September.

Riley, 23, said: "Kent have given me plenty of opportunity since I signed my first contract so I am delighted that I can continue my development here and finally commit my future to my home county.

"With Sam Northeast taking over as skipper and so many of our other key players also committing their futures, all signs suggest that we are a county heading in the right direction."



SPINNER: Kent's Adam Riley



APPEAL: England Ladies curling team are looking for support

England curling team seek funds for title bid

ENGLAND Ladies curling team have qualified for their third Women's Curling Championships in Esbjerg, Denmark next month and are looking to raise funds for their travel to the European finals.

Little funding is available, so the team, who achieved bronze at their first senior championships just two years ago, are asking the people of Kent to support them using a sports crowdfunding campaign.

The west Kent-based ladies said: "We have shown that we have the potential and desire to achieve great

things for English curling and have already made a big impression on the European curling stage."

Anna Fowler, 24, Hetty Garnier, 20, Angharad Ward, 20, Lauren Pearce, 23 and Naomi Robinson, 21 who make up the team, are offering personalised, signed memorabilia and a session of curling coaching for eight people.

To support England's Ladies Curling Team and find out more visit: www.pledgesports.org/projects/2015-european-curling-championships

Gills fans to go the extra mile

GILLINGHAM fans will travel further than any others in League One this season, according to new figures.

The research, conducted by parking app JustPark, showed that supporters will cover a total distance of 8,584 miles in over 151 hours on the road.

The Gills visit to Fleetwood Town in Lancashire in March will be the

league's longest away journey - a 568-mile round trip by car, taking over nine hours in total. Which will feel even longer if they lose.

Gillingham fans will spend an average of over six-and-a-half hours on the road per away game.

Supporters who drive to every game will fork out an average of £1,202 on fuel and £135 on parking.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on: Twitter @KentSport Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3

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DRIVE AWAY FOR £6,345

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DRIVE AWAY FOR £7,895

12/12 Plate Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 CDTi SE 5dr, in Red



DRIVE AWAY FOR £7,995

12/12 Plate Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 TBO Exclusiv 5dr, in White



DRIVE AWAY FOR £8,295

13/13 Plate Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Exclusiv 5dr, in Grey



DRIVE AWAY FOR £8,495

13/13 Plate Ford Fiesta 1.0 Ecoboost Zetec 5dr, in Mustard



DRIVE AWAY FOR £8,995

14/14 Plate Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Design 5dr, in Grey



DRIVE AWAY FOR £9,995

12/12 Vauxhall Antara 2.2 Exclusiv Auto 5dr, in Grey



DRIVE AWAY FOR £11,995

14/14 Vauxhall Mokka 1.6 Exclusiv 5dr, in Blue



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